‘US Treasury has no authority to regulate casinos in CNMI.’ » PAGE 2

Torres prepares to take over, summons Cabinet members. » PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI’S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

No jail time for Fitial, as Inos signs commutation

By JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has granted the commutation of the one-year prison sentence for former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

Fitial will get no jail time, according to the commutation order.

Fitial

The decision was announced in a commutation order signed by Inos yesterday.

“Now, therefore I, Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, pursuant to the clem-

See FITIAL on Page 4

PEACE IN DIVERSITY

BJ Dance Group from Korea performed traditional dances during Saturday’s 2015 Liberation Day Festivities held at the Kanoa Resort. The group, along with Hawaiian singer Anuhea, performed for the public despite the rainy weather and other Liberation Day activity cancellations.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

See story on Page 6

Tropical storm Chan-Hom to move away from CNMI

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An all-clear condition for Rota is expected today as Tropical Storm Chan-Hom is forecasted to move away from the CNMI after its erratic movements during the weekend.

All warnings and conditions were lowered for Saipan and Tinian as early as yesterday afternoon after being raised up to Typhoon Condition 1.

Despite the all clear, gusts of wind and rain were still experienced through the night.

“Even though this is an all clear, there is still an advice for people to be vigilant,” Press Secretary Ivan Blanco said.

“We’re looking at 30 to 40 miles per hour wind for Saipan and Tinian throughout the night,” CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management deputy special assistant Gerald Deleon Guerrero said.

The center of the storm was passing by near Rota last night and was heading north. Chan-hom was expected to turn toward the northwest and head away from the CNMI.

Gusty winds and heavy rains will taper off by early morning today, the weather statement said.

Deleon Guerrero said that forecasters of the National Weather Station in Guam found it hard to track Chan-Hom because of its erratic movement.

Luckily, there were no reports of

See TROPICAL on Page 4

CUC: Energy savings plan, $300K should serve as basis of hospital payment plan

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To finalize an adequate payment plan, the local hospital has to realize energy savings of about $250,000 and lessen its average $500,000 monthly utility bill to a number it can afford, says Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board director David Sablan Jr.

The payment plan would also entail a commitment to pay the hospital’s past dues, said Sablan. The hospital, or the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., owes about $16 million in past due accounts to CUC.

In a payment plan proposal last month, CHCC executive director Esther Muna described changes to their monthly utility consumption.

According to Muna, the hospital has

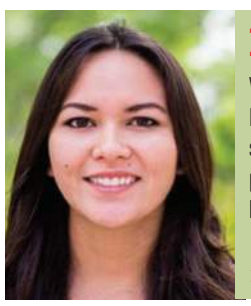
See CUC on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

While people across the country are lighting fireworks and families are gathering to take part in 4th of July revelry, a different sentiment is felt when speaking to those fighting to protect our freedom.

» PAGE 14



LOCAL

When she was in high school, Rica Ann Sablan Dela Cruz said she would not have imagined pursuing a career in public health.

» PAGE 16

LIFE & STYLE

Matt Stonie shocked the competitive eating world Saturday by upsetting Joey “Jaws” Chestnut at the Fourth of July hot dog eating contest at Nathan’s Famous in Coney Island.

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Local

TINIAN DYNASTY INSISTS:

'US Treasury has no authority to regulate casinos in CNMI'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino has insisted that U.S. Congress has not given U.S. Department of the Treasury Secretary the authority to regulate casinos in the CNMI.

Attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., asked the federal court to reconsider its determination that the definition of the term "United States" set forth in the statute presents a basis for the Department of Treasury's rule-making extending the definition of the term "casino" to apply not only to casinos licensed by a "State" but also to casino licensed by Tinian, a political subdivision of the CNMI.

Berline said the court erred when it agreed with the U.S. that the Bank Secrecy Act's statutory definition of "United States" amounted to express authority to extend the territorial limitation embedded the statute's definition of "casino."

Berline said because the term "United States" does not authorize the U.S. Department of the Treasury to expand the Bank Secrecy Act's definition of "casino," which is limited to a casino licensed by a State, the court should reconsider its order and find that the Treasury's definition of "casino" may not be applied to HKE.

Berline said this is particularly so given that the definition of "United States" being used to support imposition of criminal penalties despite not appearing in the statute.

Last June 1, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled that the U.S. Congress has given U.S. Department of the Treasury Secretary the authority to regulate casinos in the CNMI.

Manglona said because Treasury has been duly authorized by the U.S. Congress under a statute to expand the definition of the United States to include the CNMI, and because Treasury has in fact promulgated regulations consistent with that authority, it has the authority to enact regulations to prevent money laundering by casinos licensed in the CNMI.

Manglona discussed the Treasury secretary's authority in her order that denied HKE's motion to dismiss the indictment against the company for lack of federal jurisdiction and failure to state an offense.

In HKE's motion for reconsideration in part, Berline said HKE has never disputed that the Bank Secrecy Act applies to the CNMI generally, and that Treasury has authority to implement the Act through regulation in all of the "United States" including, where expressly authorized, in the CNMI.

Berline said the court did not consider in its ruling the controlling Ninth Circuit authority in the U.S. v. Bordallo case that holds that the term "State" is limited in meaning to one of the 50 states unless Congress expressly provides that a territorial or insular possession is to be included.

Berline said HKE's argument has always been that Congress saw fit to define "casino" to be of limited territorial scope and that, under the Bordallo ruling, the only path to an expansion of that territorial scope is an express statement of Congress that the term "casino" should include casinos licensed by one

See TREASURY on Page 4

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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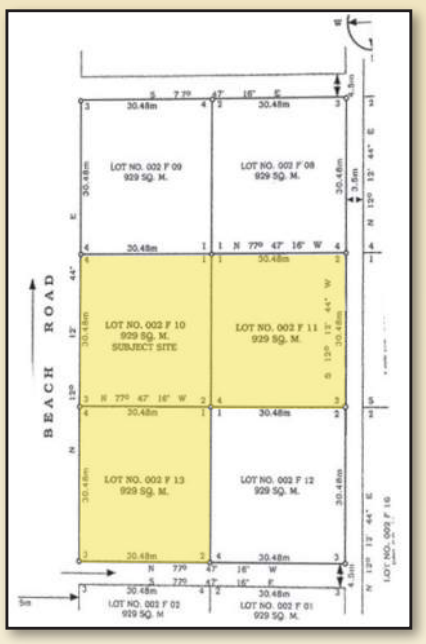
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.developcnmi.com

NOTICE OF SALE

CDA Building

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) hereby announces the sale of its commercial real estate located in Oleai, Saipan to the highest bidder at the starting minimum bid of $2M.

The property consists of a three-story commercial building with an approximate gross rentable area of 18,000 square feet (600 sq. ft./per unit), gross building area of 24,888 square feet and a total land area of 2,787 square meters.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Terms and Condition of Sale

A. No Representation or Warranties. Property and its improvements are being sold "AS IS, WHERE IS, WITH ALL FAULTS". Prospective Purchaser must rely on its own investigation and review of the physical, environmental, economic use, compliance, and legal conditions of the Property.

B. Proposals should include the following:

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2. Identify payment option
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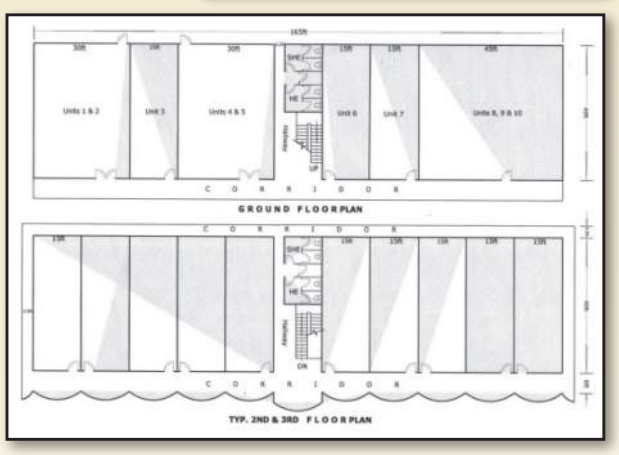
   (c) The name, address and telephone number of the contact person for the Proposed Purchaser.

C. Submission: All Prospective Purchasers are encouraged to visit the property prior to submitting a proposal. The Property is available for a walk-through inspection by appointment only. Contact Christy Kintol, Office manager at ext. 310 or Oscar Camacho, Loan Manager at ext. 306 to schedule an appointment.



Proposals entitled **"OFFER TO PURCHASE - CDA BUILDING"** must be received by the CDA no later than 4:00 pm, **Friday, July 31, 2015** and should be addressed to:

Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950

The CDA reserves the right: **(1)** to cancel this Notice at any time for any reason **(2)** to accept or reject any and all proposals and **(3)** to request additional information prior to or upon the final selection of a purchaser.

New casino applicant enters MOU with TCGCC, HKE

Tinian Entertainment Co., Ltd, a CNMI incorporated entity, announced the company has entered into a legally binding memorandum of understanding with the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission and Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Limited with the intention to proceed with the transition in operation of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

"The signing of the MOU confirms Tinian Entertainment's interest in pursuing the operation of Tinian Dynasty, and a major step forward for us to become a part of the local community," commented Wilfred Lam, director of Tinian Entertainment Co., Ltd and chairman of Chinese Strategic Holdings Ltd., the parent holding of TEC. "Our team has been working diligently with the Gaming Commission on the requirements for our path to licensure, and we are committed to comply with all local and federal regulations."

On July 1, 2015 TEC submitted the casino license application fee of $200,000 to TCGCC. The application fee was in support of the company's petition for TEC application for casino license and request to initiate suitability investigation of all officers and directors, filed earlier on May 22, 2015.

According to the company's record, TEC has completed filing of its business disclosure form, and the personal history disclosure forms, income tax filings, bank statements, finger prints, criminal history check, and credit reports of its two directors on May 22, and an investigation fee of $100,000 has been filed with the commission on Feb. 17, 2015.

TEC is currently waiting for TCGCC's review of its submission, and the parties of the MOU envision that after the application is deemed substantially complete, the suitability investigation of TEC relating to the new casino license will be completed within 90 days. Meanwhile, the Parties also envision that TCGCC will issue an Interim Casino Authorization to TEC upon preliminary finding of suitability, a process which shall take between 15-40 days to complete.

On the path to licensure, TEC will engage Spectrum Gaming Group, a formidable gaming research and professional services firm based in New Jersey, who has worked with governments, regulators, investors and gaming operators from around the world for the upgrade and development of Tinian Dynasty. Leveraging on Spectrum's research and expertise, TEC will formulate a business and operational plan to ensure ongoing best practices in BSA/AML compliance when the company is granted authorization to operate.

Upon TEC's takeover of Tinian Dynasty, Tinian's gaming industry will embark on a new era witnessing the participation of a public company, operating with transparency and accountability. "We thank the gaming commission, the leadership, and the people of Tinian for their support of our rehabilitative efforts. We are confident, with the on-going help of Spectrum, the community, including the gaming commission and leadership of Tinian, the Tinian Dynasty will be thriving again soon," Lam added.

As outlined in the MOU, TCGCC agrees that TEC shall not be held responsible for any alleged violations of the Gaming Act or its regulations committed by HKE.

On March 24, 2015, TEC has entered into an operating agreement with HKE for the takeover of Tinian Dynasty, and the agreement will be revised and resubmitted to TCGCC for review and approval under the MOU. ***(PR)***

Senate and CUC to meet over laws affecting utility

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate is requesting to meet with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. today on laws affecting the public utility.

Last Thursday, Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) sent a letter to CUC board chair Adelina Roberto requesting CUC's presence during a Senate committee on public utilities today.

This is scheduled at 2pm today in the Senate Chamber.

"The purpose of this meeting is for an update on Net Metering law and others, from CUC board and management," Igisomar wrote.

He said the committee looks forward to meeting with CUC board member and management to address issues facing the Commonwealth.

In May, the consultants for the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission called "another burden" to CUC the modified Public Law 18-75. Georgetown Consulting Group said the law adds more burden to customers not using the net metering program.

PL-18-75 and its subsequent modifications prioritize net energy metering capacity for health and education facilities. Through this law, the Legislature finds that "the only way to reduce utility costs is to utilize renewable energy sources to offset the electricity or other utility required for the operations of [the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Public School System].

"This is because the fixed capacity and delivery system infrastructure cost and non-fuel [operating and maintenance] cost avoided by [the hospital and public schools] does not somehow go away because of this change to the law," the consulting group wrote. "Instead the costs avoided by CHCC and PSS will by necessity e collected by CUC from its other customers," they said.

DFEMS chief sends 6 firefighters to Rota for storm's approach

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Claudio Norita on Friday deployed six firefighters to Rota to augment the island's emergency response team during Tropical Storm Chan-Hom's approach.

DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde said the deployment of six firefighters from Saipan's Search and Rescue Unit was in coordination with the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Gersonde said the six firefighters will augment DFEMS Rota's emergency medical technician and firefighters in anticipation of Chan-Hom's approach.

"Our firefighters are expected to remain on Rota until Chan-Hom is no longer a threat to Rota and the Marianas," Gersonde said.

As of 5pm, the U.S. National Weather Service said packing maximum winds at 50 miles per hour, Tropical Storm Chan-Hom was passing over Rota.

Last May, DFEMS Commissioner Norita also deployed six firefighters to Rota to aug-

See DFEMS on Page 4

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy 3rd birthday to our 4th of July Baby RickyJay Isaiah V. Kaipat. You have brought so much joy in our lives and are truly blessed to be a part of it. You are one in a Minion. We love you always from Daddy TJ, Mommy Mina, Papa Jeff, Nana Pauline, Nina, and Zion

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 5th birthday Sage Jerome L. Santos and many more birthdays to come. We wish you the very best on your special day and we hope you enjoy your day. Are you ready for your ninja ninja night? We love you baby. Greetings from Mommy, Daddy, brothers/in-laws and sisters/in-laws and from your nieces and the family.

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Survivors, caregivers support meeting this Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room.

The guest speaker will be Ronald Sablan, Medical Referral director, Office of the Governor. Topic: "Medical Referral Program Update"

To RSVP or for more information, please call CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

FITIAL

From Page 1

ency power conferred upon me by Article III of the Constitution of the CNMI, have granted and by there presents do grant a commutation of sentence to Benigno Fitial by removing the requirement for Benigno Fitial to serve any jail time including suspended jail term pursuant to CNMI Supreme Court Order in Criminal Case No. 14-0051," the commutation order said.

The commutation order further stated that, "all other conditions, requirements, and obligations imposed by the court shall not be affected by this Commutation Order and shall remain."

Inos has issued the commutation order to Ramon B. Camacho, chair of the CNMI Board of Parole.

'No other reason'

The decision to approve the commutation of the jail sentence was "not an easy one" Inos in a statement said.

"But I am certain in my conscience that it is the right decision," he said.

The governor said it is "in our culture to be more compassionate toward each other, and it is also in our culture not to claim victory or take joy in the fall of our own citizens."

Inos mentioned Fitial's years of service to the CNMI.

"He (Fitial) played an integral part in the formation of our Covenant, served in the Legislature, and served as governor."

Inos said he understands "that there will be those in the community who will not look favorably upon this decision, but as reasonable citizens, I am hopeful that they will join me as we move forward and put this behind us."

Inos also said he is "exercising my power as governor because of the unfortunate circumstances surrounding the health of the former governor Fitial and for no other reason."

The 69-year old Fitial has been seeking medical treatment in the Philippines.

In May, Fitial and the government agreed to a plea deal, in which Fitial may enter a guilty plea to two offenses including misconduct in public office and conspiracy to commit theft of service.

Early last month, Fitial pleaded guilty on the two charges, making him the first chief executive of the Commonwealth to be convicted.

On June 25, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed the one-year prison sentence on Fitial.

For the crime of conspiracy to commit theft of services, Wiseman sentenced the defendant to the maximum term of five years in jail.

But in view of several and significant mitigating circumstances and for those reasons only, Wiseman suspended all except one year and the maximum fine of $5,000.

For the crime of misconduct in public office, Fitial was given a one-year imprisonment sentence, all suspended except for 30 days, to run concurrent with the sentence in the other offense and the maximum fine of $1,000.

Reactions

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) said she "respects the decision" of Inos. She declined to comment further.

House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said he "is not supporting the decision, but he respects it."

Other leaders of the Legislature also declined to comment.

In an earlier interview and before the commutation order was signed, Rep. Raymond A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) declined to comment.

Former lawmaker and journalist Tina Sablan, who opposed the commutation of sentence for the former governor, said "Public trust in government is a fragile thing. Here in the Commonwealth it has been betrayed and broken again and again, and it is difficult to rebuild."

"Given the circumstances in which Governor Inos rose to political power in the first place, he of all people must be conscious of the hope and the expectation that his legacy in office would be about restoring our trust in government. His decision to commute Mr. Fitial's sentence deals a serious blow to that trust, and I hope that he addresses the implications of his actions openly, honestly, and soon," Sablan said.

She added that she would like "to thank all the good men and women in law enforcement for their courage, tenacity, and commitment to justice in our Commonwealth."

"May they continue to fight the good fight, and know that they are appreciated and supported by the many citizens they work to protect. Someday, we will truly have a government of laws. Their efforts today, and the continuing efforts of every engaged citizen—bring us closer to that vision," she said.

Decision

The governor last week said that he plans to make a decision on the commutation of the sentence before he flies today to Seattle on a three-week vacation to meet with family members in the U.S.

A few days after Fitial's conviction, the Board of Parole unanimously voted to support a commutation of sentence for Fitial. The board also unanimously voted to object the granting of absolute pardon for the former official.

The board said it decided to conduct the hearing after Inos requested last June 22—or two days before the sentencing—for a consultation on whether or not grant a pardon to Fitial

Inos confirmed sending the letter seeking recommendation, but said he is not entirely sure whether it was sent "two days before" or "two days after" the sentencing. "But it's all really about consultations," Inos said.

After being asked if he will follow the Board of Parole's recommendations, Inos said, "I can follow it. But I'm not required to."

Inos also clarified that he was not approached by the camp of Fitial before the sentencing. However, he said Fitial "submitted an application for pardon." Inos said this is the reason he sent a letter of intent to the board.

TROPICAL

From Page 1

damage, casualties, or even power and water outages because of the storm.

Around 66 individuals sought refuge in the emergency shelters that were opened Saturday afternoon, but as of last night, only the shelter on Rota was still open.

Well-supplied

The Joeten Supermarket in Garapan saw an increase in its customers over the weekend because of the storm.

"Since Friday, customers have been coming in to prepare for the storm and we saw increase in customers," manager George Moses said.

He said goods are still well supplied except for fruits and vegetables as shipments were delayed because of the storm.

"We are well-supplied, we have so much back up and that's good for the customers. We have no shortage other than fruits and vegetables. We have a delay in our containers," Moses said.

"What I heard is that the Coast Guard closed the port of Guam and Saipan in anticipation of the storm and that caused the delay of our fruits and vegetables," he added.

For 99 Cents in Middle Road and Twins Supermarket in Dandan, no significant increase on customers was noted during the weekend. Their supplies were also well stocked.

"We have enough for until next week," Arlene Relator, employee of 99 Cents said.

Affected flights

A number of flights were affected by Tropical Storm Chan-Hom during the weekend.

Last Saturday, Cape Air announced that due to inclement weather caused by Tropical Storm Chan-Hom, a majority of Cape Air flights, scheduled to depart from and arrive at the Guam International Airport yesterday have been cancelled. These are flights UA5069, UA5070, UA5071, UA5068, UA5039, and UA5077.

"While subject to change pending weather conditions, Cape Air expects to resume normal operations after 7pm on Sunday, with flight UA5077 departing Guam for Saipan at 7:15 pm," their statement said.

For United Airlines, changes for flights to Tokyo and Cairns on Saturday were announced as early as Friday. Flight UA196, Guam to Tokyo/Narita operated as UA2061 while Flight UA94, Guam to Cairns, will operate as UA2059.

United urged customers to check the latest status of their flights at united.com or by calling United Reservations at 1-800-UNITED-1 (1-800-864-8331).

American Memorial Park closure

The American Memorial Park Visitor Center and Micro Beach facilities were closed last Saturday.

"All events and programs are suspended through the closure. Park facilities will resume normal operations when weather and facility conditions make it safe to do so. Notification will be made when normal operations resume," their announcement said.

New cyclone

After Tropical Storm Chan-Hom, another disturbance, Tropical Storm Nangka, is being monitored. However, it is still too early to be certain of its track.

According to Deleon Guerrero, its current track showed the storm to move between Pagan and Agrian islands in the north on Wednesday or Thursday.

"Let's just hope and pray that it doesn't change course and go south again," Deleon Guerrero said.

He added that they will be releasing updates with the new storm as its track becomes clear and reminded the public to remain prepared as storms are always associated with rains.

CUC

From Page 1

"installed new oil-less compressor chiller system; installed new energy-efficient hot water boiler system; placed areas in zones permitting us to shutdown non-critical/non-patient services areas after hours" which cuts the usage of their air handler units; "began installation of a new energy-efficient HVAC system" which is estimated to be completed in three months; and "obtained a [Department of Interior] grant to develop a renewable energy system."

When asked for a comment on these plans, Sablan said the question is if the hospital has allowed one of CUC's engineers to evaluate its cost savings.

Speaking to these "quantifiable savings," he said if the hospital's plans equated to about $250,000 in savings then CUC and the hospital "may have a possible agreement."

"But they are going to need to have at least 300,000 in cash every month to pay," he added, as CUC owes about $500,000 in utilities a month. "If they are able to show they can pay $300,000, [and] they are able to show they can conserve $250,000, and we are able to monitor it, then I think we have the conditions for a working payment plan," he said.

The CUC board met last week to discuss a "draft contract" center around a reported $150,000 payment plan.

For his part, Sablan disagrees with this payment of $150,000, as he says the hospital has said they can afford monthly payment of about $300,000 a month.

Last week, the board directed its management to meet with CHCC to discuss a possible payment plan.

According to Sablan, CUC has been close to working out contracts, or "memorandum of agreements," with the Public School System and the central government on payment plans for unpaid dues.

With regards to the hospital, though, Sablan said they never come close.

The letter from Muna proposes a payment of $250,000 for the month of June.

It proposes that CHCC will then make "at least" $150,000 in monthly payments thereafter, using its current budget and revenues until "CHCC completes installation of a renewable system."

In her letter, Muna also acknowledges that their current billing is unaffordable while trying to provide quality health care to residents.

Citing past financial audits, Muna said their operating losses are almost equivalent to their utilities cost.

She also said their FY 2015 appropriated monthly budget is only $101,730.16, while their total utility charges for May was $444,300.72.

She said insufficient funding has made it difficult to even spread payments throughout their operational needs and avoid discontinuation of critical services.

TREASURY

From Page 2

of the insular possessions.

Berline said that statement is lacking in the Bank Secrecy Act's statutory scheme.

The lawyer said in this case, where the Ninth Circuit in Bordallo case determined that the undefined term "State," used in a criminal statute does not include an insular possession unless Congress expressly says so, the federal court's approach to determining the scope of Treasury's authority was incorrect.

The U.S. government filed in November last year 158 criminal charges against HKE, owner of Tinian Dynasty.

The charges are one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report or CTR, 155 counts of failure to file a CTR, one count of failure to file a suspicious activity report, and one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program. The indictment has also a notice of forfeiture.

Assistant U.S. attorneys Marivic P. David and Ross K. Naughton said the parties are awaiting a final decision from the Department of Justice relating to a proposed settlement, which if approved, will resolve the need for a jury trial.

The trial was re-set several times following the parties' request to continue because the U.S. Department of Justice's Main Justice in Washington, D.C. has yet to issue a final decision regarding the settlement deal that the U.S. Attorney's Office and HKE have agreed in principle to dismiss the criminal case.

The parties agreed to dismiss the case against HKE in exchange for the company's forfeiture to the U.S. government of $3.02 million, plus other terms and conditions.

DFEMS

From Page 3

ment the island's understaffed DFEMS during the preparedness operation over Typhoon Dolphin's approach.

Rota has only five firefighters.

On Friday, the Department of Public Safety also closed the Grotto diving spot due to typhoon condition III. It remained closed until yesterday.

DPS Boating Safety Section commander Sgt. Thomas Blas said strong winds and rough waters are present in Grotto, making the conditions unsafe for any swimmers or divers.

Torres prepares to take over, summons Cabinet members

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres will summon Cabinet members today to discuss and set an agenda for the coming weeks.

Torres will be the acting governor with the departure of Gov. Eloy S. Inos for a three-week vacation in Seattle. Inos is scheduled to fly to the mainland today.

"Yes, I will be acting governor. I have asked Cabinet members to meet today to set an agenda as move forward when Governor Inos takes his vacation," Torres said.

He declined to comment on the commutation of sentence for former governor Benigno A. Fitial, adding that it is Inos who has the authority to make the decision.

Festivities

Torres, meanwhile, said although most of the Liberation Day festivities set for Saturday have been canceled he is still thankful for the organizers of a free concert to mark the important day.

He said the free concert at the Kanoa Resort, featuring Hawaiian artist Anuhea, is a great public service to the CNMI community.

"This is a very important holiday. Although the typhoon has hampered some of the activities, we are still here and we are going to make the best of it," Torres, who was in attendance in the Saturday concert, said. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

EPA reviewing CUC's management report, draft master plan

A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency inspector stressed their concerns to the Commonwealth Utility Corp. board over how vacant senior management positions might affect execution of the court-stipulated order projects that EPA oversees.

Speaking though teleconference, Tinger sought an update on the utility's vacant executive director, deputy executive director, drinking water and wastewater manager, and technical manager for oil positions.

According to Tinger, they are "very concerned" about the vacancies in these positions and it's "potential impact it has on CUC to be able to follow through on" court stipulated order projects.

EPA last month sent a letter requesting a report on how CUC would fill these positions.

"…The lack of executive leadership right now is a real concern to EPA with so many managerial positions currently vacant," Tinger said last week.

Acting executive director John Riegel told Tinger they have announced the executive director position, and have done and will do more interviews for the water manager position. As for EPA's June 2 request, CUC sent a response on June 25.

On CUC's master plan, Tinger said it has been a significant effort for CUC to combine together its wastewater and drinking water side of operations and their financial components together. He said EPA will review the master plan "with an eye towards those commitments."

EPA has reviewed the draft plan earlier. The current review is on CUC responses to EPA comments on the plan's inadequacies.

According to Tinger, their major comments were on CUC's commitments to the capital improvement projects over "the short time frame and the longer time frame." They are now looking at "what CUC is able to commit" for those projects, he said.

He added they would provide "more scrutiny" towards the financial plan and financial health of CUC, including its rate structure.

"The stipulated order requires CUC to be self-sustaining agency with a commitment of funds to be able to sustain itself and pay for services," he said.

"…And I think as we are all aware, there are some significant issues there currently so with the master plan in place we will use that as an opportunity to really broach the subject of how the funding for CUC is being taken care of," Tinger added.

CUC chief financial officer Matthew Yaquinto, at the request of board member Joe Torres, informed Tinger of their plans to reduce line losses though infrastructure improvements that may come through a rate change.

"We had a study done for our five years ago that came out saying we should invest about 13 million dollars into our infrastructure and this would help reduce our losses on the system," Yaqunito said. "We are going to revisit that with economist.com [CUC consultants] as far as what that rate should be and how we go forward as far improving our infrastructure and improving our electricity grid," he said. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

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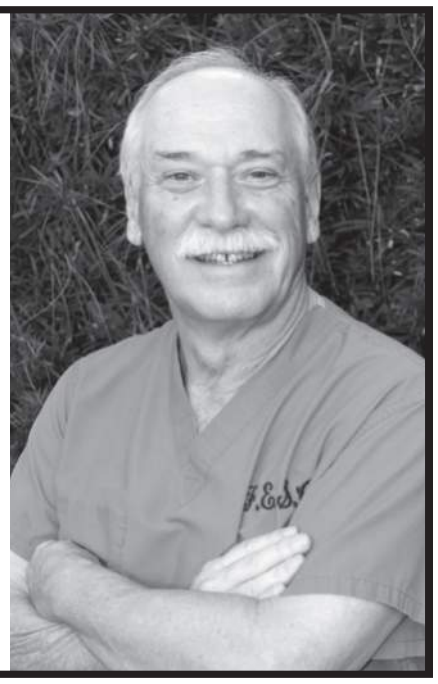

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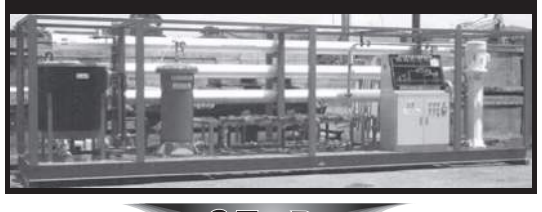

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Despite stormy weather, Liberation Day concert pushes through

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The threat of Tropical Storm Chan-Hom bringing with it overcast skies and rainy weather over the weekend did not dampen the Fourth of July spirit of Saipan residents wanting to celebrate one of the most significant holidays in the Commonwealth.

Gathering at the lobby of Kanoa Resort in Susupe last Saturday, families and friends enjoyed an afternoon of music and performances at the Liberation Day concert brought by organizer Skywalker Communications Group together with Steven Brownstein Entertainment.

"After confirmation that weather conditions for the day were safe enough for residents to partake in the in-door concert festivities, the impromptu performance was quickly organized," Skywalker's public relations manager Kiki Chen said.

"This is the Saipan spirit and this is one of the many things I love about Saipan. Rain or shine, party must go on," said Mary Mendoza, vice president for Public Relations and Marketing of Best Sunshine International, one of the CNMI Liberation Day's major sponsors.

Hawaiian contemporary folk rock singer and songwriter Anuhea was the first to perform.

"There was quite an interest in Anuhea," Steven Brownstein said, "And so when the opportunity rose to bring to Saipan a great concert and fireworks show to the Liberation Day festivities, the first thought that came to my mind was Anuhea."

Fans danced and sang to Anuhea hits "Higher than the Clouds," "Come Over Love," and "Big Deal." Kids and adult fans alike had a chance to sing with her band in "Simple Love Song."

The audience also enjoyed Anuhea's covers of other popular hits like TLC's "Waterfalls." As a finale, she sang Bob Marley's "Three Little Birds" also known as "Every Little Thing" which added to the taste of island music.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
Hawaiian singer Anuhea performed for the public in celebration of Liberation Day last Saturday at the Kanoa Resort despite Tropical Storm Chan-Hom bringing rains and gusty winds on the island.

After their performance, organizers and sponsors gave away T-shirts to the crowd. Fans also had the opportunity to meet the band.

A Korean group named BJ Dance Group, founded by artistic director Jung-hee Baek, also performed for the public their signature pieces from Korean traditions. This includes the colorful Fan Dance, Jindobookchum, and Ganggangsullae.

"The variations in the day's performances were representative of this year's Liberation Festivities theme "Peace in Diversity" and were well-received by the attending crowd," Chen said.

Also present in the event were Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his wife Diann, some members of the Legislature, as well as this year's Liberation Festival Queen Zolenska Marie Yaroitemal and Royal Princess Stephanie Camacho.

Anuhea was supposed to perform at the Garapan Fishing Base on the evening of July 4 but the stage that was earlier set up had to be removed because of the threat of Tropical Storm Chan-Hom. The dance group on the other hand was supposed to perform at the American Memorial Park stage but had to be transferred also. The Liberation Day parade wasn't able to push through.

Other sponsors for the festivities are KKMP, Joeten Superstore, Torres Brothers LLC, Burger Comer Magliari, Docomo, IT&E, 360 Restaurant, Island Training Solutions, Sunleader, Sichuan Airlines, and Naked Fish.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, beginning May 04, 2015 through July 17, 2015; Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or download an application on CHCC's website at http://chcc.gov.mp.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program's Administrative Office no later than 4:00 p.m., July 17, 2015.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

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Ex-Sports and Rec official gets 4-month prison term

Former Division of Sports and Recreation deputy director John Benavente Reyes Jr. was slapped with a four-month prison term for pleading guilty to his two criminal cases and admitting to violating his probation.

The 37-year-old Reyes, however, will face another sentencing on Sept. 30, 2015, at 1:30pm for violating his probation in connection with his 2012 criminal case conviction.

Reyes and counsel assistant public defender Michael Sato, signed a plea deal with the government. Assistant attorney general Emily Cohen represented the government.

The defendant pleaded guilty to the offense of illegal possession of controlled substance in the 2014 case and pleaded guilty to the offenses of illegal possession of controlled substance and contempt of court in the 2015 criminal case. He conceded to have violated his probation in the 2012 criminal conviction.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman accepted the guilty plea and the plea deal. Wiseman recognized that Reyes has a long-standing drug addiction to methamphetamine or "ice" and along with his family have made arrangements at their own expense for defendant's drug addiction treatment at the Lighthouse Rehabilitation Facility in Guam.

For the charges of two counts of illegal possession of controlled substance and a count of contempt of court, Wiseman imposed a total prison term of four months with credit for time served.

Reyes was ordered to pay a $4,000 fine, $100 in court assessment fee plus probation fee.

The government did not object to Reyes receiving credit toward his prison sentence for time he spends at the Lighthouse Rehabilitation Facility in Guam provided he met some conditions.

» Volunteers to drug rehab

Among the conditions is that Reyes shall return to the Department of Corrections in Susupe within one hour of his arrival on Saipan after the completion of his drug treatment in Guam.

At the Sept. 30, 2015 sentencing, the prosecution and the defense agreed that the term of imprisonment is zero day to two years, to be determined by the court, to run consecutive or in addition to the four-month prison term.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on Sept. 25, 2014 and on Jan. 30, 2015 on Saipan, Reyes had "ice" in his possession.

Reyes admitted to violating the terms and conditions of his probation by failing to obey all laws when he was arrested for possession of "ice" on Sept. 25, 2014, Oct. 10, 2014, Jan. 30, 2015, and April 29, 2015, and has not paid his fine or court fees.

The government agreed to dismiss in its entirety defendant's another criminal case in 2014. The prosecution also agreed not to file charges against the defendant in another police criminal case in 2015.

In November 2013, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Reyes to three months in prison for shattering the driver's side of a car with a baseball bat and assaulting the driver, Derek Reyes, at a stoplight on Beach Road, Garapan on Sept. 2, 2012. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CHCC, DPS get more federal funding

The CNMI's Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Department of Public Safety are set to receive more federal funding.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), in his weekly e-newsletter, said the CHCC "is receiving $1 million that Congress provides to help children and teenagers with emotional disturbance and their families."

The Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services grant was announced this week by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is said to pay for individualized service plans to be developed and implemented for each young person in the program.

According to Sablan, the plans are put together with the participation of the family, and where appropriate, the child. A case manager then assists in carrying out the service plan.

The U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, meanwhile, awarded a grant of $16,944 to DPS.

In his e-newsletter, Sablan said the State Traffic Safety Information System Improvement Grants support efforts to improve the data systems needed to help identify priorities for highway safety programs, to link intrastate data systems, and to improve the compatibility and interoperability with national data systems for highway safety purposes. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
2015-CDA-05-RFP

Closing Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2015 Time: 10:00 a.m.

" FINANCIAL & COMPLIANCE AUDIT – FISCAL YEARS 2015 AND 2016"

Copies of the specifications may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority Office, 2nd Floor, CDA Building, Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposal in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ OSCAR C. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Available for Public Review
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Consolidated Plan 2015-2019
And Program Year 2015 Annual Action Plan
June 29, 2015

Governor Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors wish to announce the availability for public review and comment, the CNMI Consolidated Plan 2015-2019 (ConPlan) and the Program Year (PY) 2015 Annual Action Plan (AAP).

The ConPlan and AAP are mandated by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Community Planning and Development, for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds by the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI). The CNMI Government is the designated recipient of these HUD grant funds. NMHC administers CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs on behalf of the CNMI Government.

The ConPlan sets forth the CNMI's plans for supporting low- and moderate-income populations through the creation and preservation of decent housing, sustainable living environments, and economic opportunities for the next five years.

The AAP announces the use of HUD CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds totaling $1,354,702 for the first year of this ConPlan cycle.

Copies of the ConPlan and AAP will be available beginning June 29, 2015 at the following NMHC locations:

•	Main Office:	Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, Saipan
•	Rota Field Office:	Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, SongSong Village, Rota
•	Tinian Field Office:	Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, San Jose Village, Tinian

You may also download the document via NMHC's website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Public Hearings for the ConPlan and the AAP will be as scheduled:
- Saipan NMHC Main Office, 6 p.m., July 15, 2015
- Rota NMHC Field Office, 6 p.m., July 15, 2015
- Tinian NMHC Field Office, 6 p.m., July 16, 2015

Written comments should be submitted to the NMHC Main Office, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, July 30, 2015. For further information, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director, at 670-234-6866.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities. If you should require any special accommodations, please contact Ms. Mafnas 670-234-6866.

This advertisement is paid with HUD CPD Funds.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-017

WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities to provide construction repair services for identified waterline leaks in the CUC water system. This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract will be awarded to multiple Contractors. The work will consists of excavation and leak repairs on various types of waterlines and appurtenances. Materials for leak repairs are to be provided by CUC. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year, contingent upon funding and if exercised by CUC.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC & the US Department of Interior –Bureau of Reclamation. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on ***June 23, 2015 at 10:00 AM (ChST)*** *at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.*

Prospective proponents for this RFP must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, by 3:00 p.m. (ChST) on June 26, 2015 in order to be considered.

One (1) Original Hard Copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP-15-017, Waterline Repairs, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on July 14, 2015**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address cucprocurement@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission.

The deadline for proposal submittals is July 14, 2015, although this date may be subject to change. Changes to the proposal schedule will be distributed to all registered proponents by the CUC Procurement and Supply office.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proponents are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proponents due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of proponents' preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Proponents shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proponents.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be considered only from registered proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 30, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Car overturns, catches fire after teen driver falls asleep

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A teenager fell asleep while driving toward the Dandan area, causing her car to swerve to the shoulder of Isa Drive after the airport traffic light, overturn into a ditch, before it caught fire Wednesday morning.

The driver, a 19-year-old female, managed to get out from the car. Medics treated her for shock and transported her to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The teenager had no passenger.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde said DFEMS received a call about a vehicle on fire on the main road of Isa Drive after the airport traffic light on Wednesday at 8:16am.

Gersonde said firefighters arrived at the scene at 8:24am and extinguished and put the fire under control at 8:36am.

Arson investigators also later arrived.

Gersonde said when firefighters arrived, the teenager was found 30 feet away from the blue 2000 Toyota Camry that was fully engulfed in flames.

Arson investigators learned that the fire was caused by flammable liquid leaking and in contact with an ignition source within the engine compartment.

The car swerved into the ditch about 15 feet deep, and overturned with all four wheels in the air and angled toward the engine compartment.

The engine compartment had obvious signs of extended heat exposure that created a "clean burn" and is an indication of the fire's origin, according to Gersonde.

He said the fire spread throughout the car because of the combustibility of the materials installed in the vehicle.

DEREK GERSONDE

A firefighter sprays water into a car that overturned into a ditch and caught fire on the shoulder of Isa Drive in Dandan on Wednesday morning. Medics treated the 19-year-old female driver for shock. The teenager reportedly fell asleep while driving, causing her car to swerve.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-019

NAVY HILL PRESSURE IMPROVEMENT & WATERLINE PROJECT – PART B

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Navy Hill Pressure Improvement & Waterline Project– Part B in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of installation of 4"Ø Distribution line; relocation and reconnection of existing service laterals; installation of new service lateral mains; cut & cap of existing waterlines; booster pump by-pass system; replacement of non-working water meters; and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 150 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **July 10, 2015 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-019, Navy Hill Pressure Improvement & Waterline Project – Part B to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 4, 2015,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurance questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the CUC Board of Directors and Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approval. If CUC Board and CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 17, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, Project Manager via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez - nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, Project Engineer.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN RIEGEL
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-018

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified entities for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

Prospective Bidders must register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) Original Hard Copy must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-018, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on July 16, 2015,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address cucprocurement@cucgov.org or alternately include a CD with the copy of the submission.*

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's (BOD) approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 29, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, CUC Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

INTEGRATED RESORT
FACT FINDING

Find out the future of Saipan
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Channel 14 every Wednesday
(repeats on Mon & Tue)

Organized by
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SKYWALKER PRODUCTION

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Taking part in this program truly gave me a better understanding on the functions of an integrated resort. Sentosa was pretty much an entertainment and family oriented concept. While Marina Bay Sands was more of a top end luxury resort. "Fact Finding" mission is something I would always remember.

Dwayne Davis, Student

Singapore was awesome. From high-end merchandise to souvenirs, Singapore's integrated resorts offer what my generation and other younger generations would like to have and enjoy on vacations, with friends and family, over the weekends and leisure time. I may have had doubts about the project, but the experience was over the top and beyond imaginable. If Saipan, could pull this through, life on the islands would not only be the island style, but may help a lot of our CNMI-born residents of all nationalities return back to our island and take over future positions that may be available.

Jason Camacho, Reporter

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Bombed-out Yemen needs a different life line

Saudi Arabia and other Sunni Muslim states have in three months of bombing, supported by the United States, reduced Yemen, already the poorest country in the Persian Gulf region, to a collapsed state.

An estimated 2,600, mostly civilians, are dead. Some 80 percent of the Yemenis need aid to stay alive, for want of food, housing, electricity and water. Health care in the country has collapsed; 60 percent of Yemenis have access to none. The Saudis have also instituted a sea blockade of Yemen, cutting off imports.

The battle in Yemen, with Yemenis on several sides of it, is basically between Saudi-backed Sunnis and Iranian-backed Shiite Houthis. Al-Qaida is also involved in Yemen and has increased the territory it controls as part of the war. The Islamic State group, also Sunni, has claimed credit for several lethal bombings. No one is winning. United Nations-sponsored talks in Geneva came to nothing and were adjourned with no date set for resumption.

The three main Yemeni parties to the war include the Sunni forces of President Abdu Rabu Mansour Hadi; he is in exile in Saudi Arabia and the Saudis insist on his return to power. Another armed force is led by former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, also Sunni, who was forced out of power by the United States and the Gulf states in 2012.

The third force is the Shiite Houthis, who seized the capital, Sanaa, in September. Their leader, Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, is president of the Revolutionary Committee and de facto president of Yemen.

Effective talks are needed among the key parties, including Saudi Arabia and Iran. Perhaps Secretary of State John Kerry will pick up this difficult issue when and if an Iran accord is signed. In the meantime, countless burned children and other Yemenis will continue to suffer from the U.S.-backed bombing of Yemen, nothing to be proud of. For the United States, the conflict is pointless, regardless of who wins.

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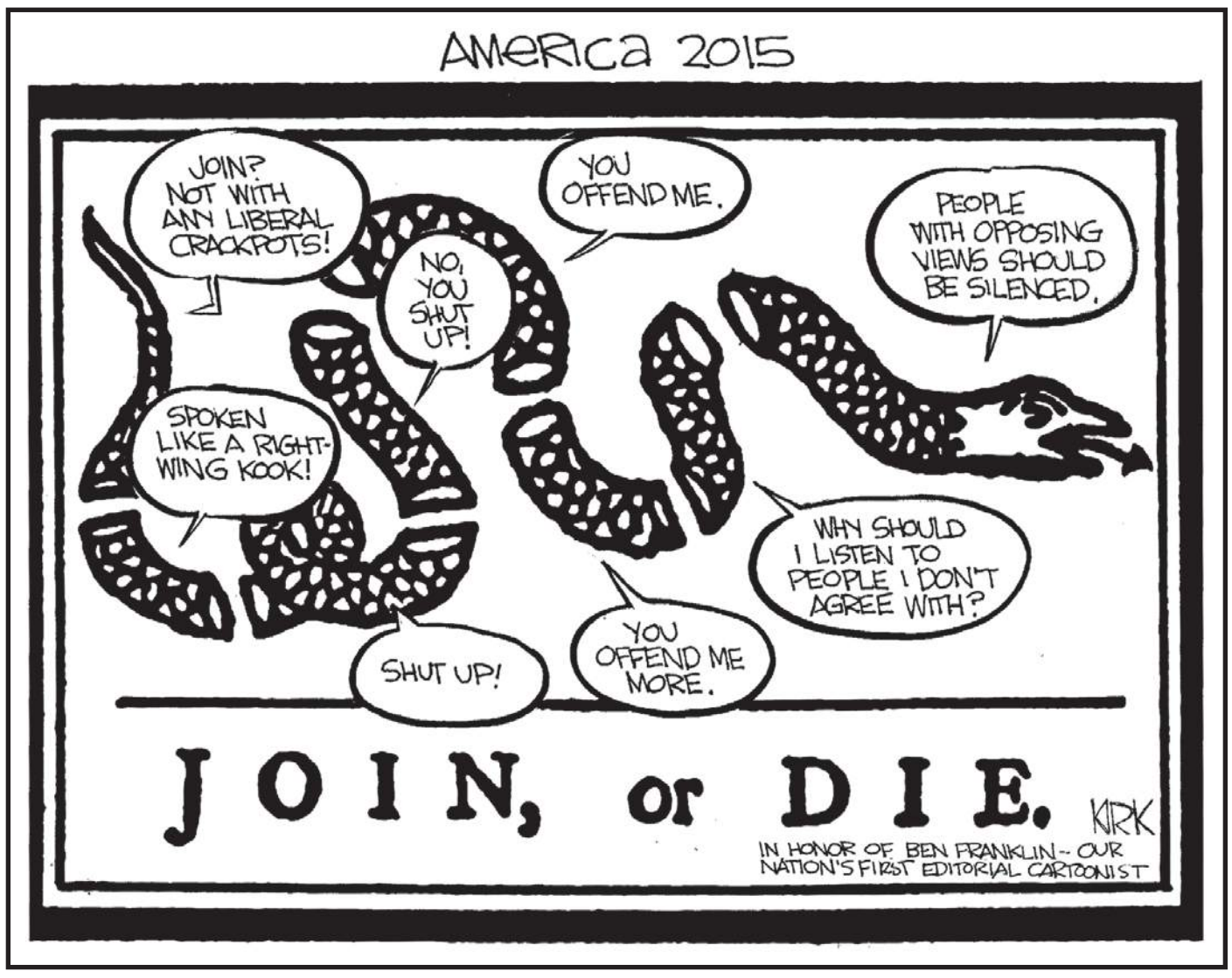

AMERICA 2015
JOIN? NOT WITH ANY LIBERAL CRACKPOTS!
NO, YOU SHUT UP!
YOU OFFEND ME.
PEOPLE WITH OPPOSING VIEWS SHOULD BE SILENCED.
SPOKEN LIKE A RIGHT-WING KOOK!
WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO PEOPLE I DON'T AGREE WITH?
SHUT UP!
YOU OFFEND ME MORE.
JOIN, or DIE.
KIRK
IN HONOR OF BEN FRANKLIN - OUR NATION'S FIRST EDITORIAL CARTOONIST

Forbidden no more

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

I am in Shenyang, China complaining of the intermittent rains and thunder rather than the typhoon in the Marianas.

It was shortly after the worldwide condemnation of the lone guy in front of tanks that China went on a diplomatic offensive. I was with a batch of diplomats who forayed into the Ming-Qing City called the Forbidden City and the Square five months later. The visit to the Forbidden City was a walk across the street from the Square, initially a part of the Forbidden City with the Meridian Gate entrance to the North Gate on the foothills of Jinshan Park.

Move back to Apollo 8 in 1968, when I first viewed the image of what has since been called the "Earthrise," the blue orb rising on the horizon from the lunar landscape. It occasioned a paradigm shift. Until that time, I was but a Pinoy going to school in the U.S. studying ancient civilizations, western metaphysics, and contemporary thought.

To be sure, I journeyed with Isaiah of the Torah, Paul of Tarsus of the Biblos, Augustine, and Aquinas in summa theologica, imaginally nailed theses with Luther, and identified with the ecumenical forces of the Christian Church. I took Toynbee's secular ethos to Moyer's tweaking of Campbell's mythology while the image of the Earthrise was a convenient holding category in appropriating the human inventions of history and the new global citizenship on planet Earth.

The Earthrise journey refined my sense of family and clan, negated the jingoistic ablutions of nation and ethnicity, and inundated the popular self-image that went with self-awareness. Europe sailed to "save everyone from original sin"; China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam took wisdom to Confucian effectivity in society. I took to the orb.

Obama gathered a threesome and created a media stir with a selfie at Mandela's funeral. With the smartphone, the selfie artform took on a new status. It fulfilled my perspective of the "Earthrise" as a symbol of a global "selfie" rather than be stuck on the national chauvinism that bedevils partisans in national homes, the U.S. and the Philippines of mine, guarding their imaginary boundaries.

At my Saipan dwelling is a Nissan Murano bearing the tag of BADASS. The driver blares Zhongwen tunes from a car with telltale indigene rebel markings: Laña Brat, Primo, and Magas with the "s" slashed over an AK-47 image above the driver door handle. He blares his BADASS music for all to hear with a less than elegant swagger that is rude even in Dong Bei.

A Taiwan national in the U.S. in the '60s echoed anti-Mao rants from missionaries instrumental in his academic training. Thus, begun my curiosity of the history of the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and the Reform and Opening Up initiated by Deng Xiaoping that still guides Xi Jinping and Beijing. China is diverse with practices of freedom and liberation not unknown in many parts.

I reside in Saipan but keep my Hawaii address that causes confusion at USCIS when asked where I spend my time most. I travel with Uncle Sam's bluebook that followed me to Manzhouli in the grasslands of Nei Menggu, to the Amur in Heilongjiang, Dandong by the Yalu near Chao Xian (North Korea), the kartz of Guillin, the Liuliude of Kangding on the foothills of Ximalaya, to the pandas of Ya-an in Sichuan, and up-river of the three-gorges dam on the mighty Yangtze that runs through Chongqing.

To talk of the U.S. without the diversity of New England to Tex-Mex, the Pacific west to the Confederacy, and points in between, plus Puerto Rico and the other territories, implies a bland picture. The temptation is to picture China the same way for Zhongguo of our familiar lies between Beijing and Nanjing of the Han. Fujian in the east coast where most Chinese in other lands came from is Han though wary about being identified as such. Persia latched on to Chang-an (now Xi'an) Qin Shi Huangdi that established the Silk Road, and called the country and people Sina or Chine.

Mao nudged the bounds of Dong Bei (fought Uncle Sam in Korea), Nei Menggu (against Russia by the Amur river), Xinjiang (pacified the restless Central Asian Muslims) and Xizang (lived with the Zang and the Dalai Lama's entourage), to Nan Bei, South China Sea, an oil rich area contested by surrounding countries at the behest of U.S. oil interests. "Contain China" is a U.S. foreign policy that keeps Sinopec from drilling the oil!

China, however, is a diverse country! From the Forbidden City that preserved its past, the Meridian Gate fronting Tiananmen Square to the Gardens, separated now from the North Gate that used to lead across the street to Jinshan Park, to the bustling walk down to contemporary China of the Wangfujing Mall through some bbq food stalls that offers grasshoppers and scorpions, our awe-struck threesome soaked in the air of a diverse China that is definitely more than the land of devious Fu Manchus.

Nixon visited China in '72 and Bill Clinton walked the Great Wall, softening the anti-Mao rant. But I have a Chinese BADASS in my neighborhood representing the global hip-hop youth.

Oh, well, visit China, anyway.

From Las Vegas and Atlantic City to Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio is a veteran journalist in the CNMI.

Former and current casino workers in Atlantic City, New Jersey and Las Vegas, Nevada may have already Googled about Saipan where their services are needed for a new casino that advertises a starting salary of $40,000 for experienced dealers and anywhere between $45,000 and $115,000 for experienced supervisors and managers.

Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s Saipan facility is supposed to be a temporary or live training casino on the ground floor of an existing duty-free shop, until it completes construction of its own casino resorts for a promised $7-billion price tag.

The advertised job perks are nice, only if these Las Vegas or Atlantic City casino personnel are willing to travel thousands of miles to this tiny U.S. tropical island in the Western Pacific.

Some of the stories and the online job advertisements, however, wrongfully placed Saipan in the South Pacific (is that near or part of Hawaii, as the uninitiated ask themselves and scratch their head looking at a map) and others, in Asia.

For any experienced casino worker in Las Vegas or Atlantic City, the Saipan benefits advertised include free air transportation, health insurance, free housing and free meal on every work shift, along with "gaining international experience," "seeking a challenge and adventure," and "being part of a casino opening."

A signing bonus is also offered to any experienced casino worker willing to relocate to Saipan by July 10, 2015.

"We are looking for individuals that can start quickly to move to Saipan," the online ad says, as it announced job interviews in Las Vegas from June 30 to July 2 (prior to that, there was also a job fair in Atlantic City) for table game shift/pit managers, surveillance shift managers, cage shift managers, table game supervisors, casino table dealers, gaming auditor, casino accountant, surveillance officers, and cage cashier.

But as recently as last week, exclusive Saipan casino license holder Best Sunshine said the opening date for the temporary casino facility is a "moving target."

The temporary Saipan casino facility was supposed to open in June, and then in July, but now an August opening is more like it. Until early this year, there wasn't even a mention of a temporary or live training casino.

The recruitment in these two U.S. casino cities shouldn't come as a surprise to the CNMI, which repeatedly heard politicians touting about new employment opportunities for local residents before, during and after legalization of casino operation on Saipan.

Best Sunshine chief executive officer Mark A. Brown told CNMI reporters that local residents applying for jobs with the company prefer to land hotel employment—and not casino jobs such as dealers.

"Right this moment, majority [of the applicants] are not dealers. I want more dealers," Brown was quoted as saying, adding that Best Sunshine will be paying trainees to deal at $7.25 per hour.

The minimum wage in the CNMI is currently at $6.05 an hour, and is mandated to increase until it reaches the federal wage floor of $7.25 an hour.

Best Sunshine has repeatedly said it will prioritize local hires as it eyes 500 personnel but its own statement about the lack of interest in casino jobs among local applicants only partly justifies its recruitment from Las Vegas, Atlantic City or other places outside the CNMI.

Even from the start, Best Sunshine knew the CNMI does not have a readily available pool of workers to fill up the casino positions needed so it will have to recruit from other places with long established casino industries such as those in Asia's Singapore, Macau, or the Philippines.

The CNMI government, which was in a rush to legalize casino on Saipan, could have done more to ensure meaningful employment for more island residents by requiring casino applicants to start training island residents for casino jobs as soon as the exclusive license is granted (last year)—and not barely a few weeks before the opening of a casino, whether temporary or permanent.

It certainly takes time for trainees from the CNMI that are paid $7.25 an hour to be offered the same starting salary of $40,000 a year for experienced casino workers and up to $115,000 for experienced managers and supervisors recruited from Las Vegas or Atlantic City, where many lost their jobs when casinos closed last year.

Based on the job ad in Las Vegas, what's needed are casino dealers with a "minimum of two years" baccarat experience. So that could be the length of time needed before CNMI trainees start also getting paid $40,000 a year for dealing. Or would they ever be paid as much?

It also remains to be seen whether Best Sunshine will provide the same salary range of $40,000 to $115,000 to experienced casino personnel already in the CNMI, particularly those that spent years working at Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. After all, Tinian Dynasty personnel are not paid that much and are not paid on time every now and then.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ignorance by an ignorant is what?

Several days ago, Mr. Ambrose Bennett responded to my letter that appeared in your paper, and he felt intimidated because I noted to your readers that he plagiarized a publication in Wikipedia, and then branded me as an "ignorant" person. Mr. Bennett wrote, "*Macbeth* is a tragedy written by William Shakespeare, and is considered one of his darkest and most powerful works." This was copied word for word from a Wikipedia article. He wrote it, I didn't. No one asked about what he wrote, and as a revered writer that he thinks he is, plagiarism is a cancer of originality in thoughts and knowledge. Thus, ignorance manifested of Ambrose Bennett's literary work is the subject of your readers' reaction and trust of his dire effort. And, it is not good.

What caught my attention was Mr. Bennett's assertion stating, "*Macbeth* is a tragedy..., and is considered one of his darkest and most powerful works." I know that Macbeth's theme was on human tragedy, but that was only incidental to my thoughts as I was perplexed of the idea where Mr. Bennett may be spewing that William Shakespeare's poetic creation was the tragedy, hence, suggesting that William Shakespeare had it all wrong.

My thoughts were spinning like tornado. To understand, one must ask. So, I asked myself, do we blame Albert Einstein for the destruction of the atomic bombs when they exploded at the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan killing innocent children, mothers, and fathers just before the end of WWll? Or, do we blame Isaac Newton for the people who were situated at a balcony of an apartment building in Berkeley, CA, a few weeks ago and plunged to their deaths when that portion of the building gave way? And, Sigmund Freud may be just as dumbfounded diagnosing Mr. Ambrose Bennett's superego motivation on turbo drive in denial and free range mode when he made the intention and willful joy to plagiarize an article in Wikipedia. On the other hand for your information Mr. Ambrose Bennett, William Shakespeare's production of *Othello*, *King Lear*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, and *Hamlet* makes interesting conversation and don't be surprised that all human beings use them sparingly in random order and we are not fully aware that they exist.

Plagiarism is the "wrongful appropriation" and "stealing and publication" of another author's "language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions" and the representation of them as one's own original work. (1995, Random House Compact Unabridged Dictionary; and, Oxford English Dictionary). In Chamorro, the closest word that connects with plagiarism is "dakun." Often said by our elders is the metaphor, "chaka de guma, nungka de gacha." This makes good nexus to plagiarism and we could understand it by connecting the dots this way to draw what stealing of knowledge belonging to someone is all about. This is not being sarcasm to no one. As it were, the Chamorro language is bankrupt of words such as "plagiarism." The tragedy lesson here is not Wikipedia's words copied and falsely used by Mr. Ambrose Bennett to bring a point, it is Mr. Ambrose Bennett who thinks greater than himself. We learned this via Polonius in *Hamlet*, by the way, binding within us "to thine own self be true." But, there is a problem here in that one cannot be true to "thine own self" unless one actually knows who "thine own self" is. Self-knowledge is unique to humans. As the old saying goes, "Barking dogs don't bit, but they don't know it." I dadao na galago ti ufanaka, lao ti matungu put enao.

In *Hamlet* once again, the big question is "to be or not to be." Mr. Bennett's fuss often dwindle to joking prose of the "I told you so," or "I predicted so and so," or "I said it before, and you have it all wrong" says unequivocally about the "self" in his persona. What does "to be" mean? What exactly is "being"? Or, What does it mean to be someone who exists? We see the character in the Dirty Harry (Clint Eastwood movie productions) and in John Wayne's movies of cowboy stories about the western frontiers when the new settlers were clearing and wiping out the native Indians along the ways to the rugged western frontiers. The authentic self in the character did not have friends. It is my way or the high way, period. This was not a kind of "they-self" kind of person. This is a person that looks boldly only to fend himself for answers. And, the only answers that have any value are the ones we come up with ourselves. One owns his private, individual existence. And, Mr. Bennett's point of view has its own grip in counterpoint to those professing they-selves, and who seem not to have any kind of grip on themselves at all. When this obviates in its true color, and not the we niggardly love to diminish such, Mr. Bennett seems to have a handle of himself alone. But, that was not the important part, this lad knows who he is and what he wants, and none of that information was derived from others. But, only to the point where we end up scratching our head, are the indigenous people of the NMI better off letting Mr. Ambrose Bennett continue to dance for more rain in a rainy days during monsoon season of the year. So, Hamlet is a real phenomenon that creeps in ones tragedy, nonetheless.

Lastly, Mr. Ambrose Bennett, I was not interested in *Macbeth* that urged me to search Wikipedia for information more than my interest for the meaning of "tragedy" as I have no clue what it is in my Chamorro lingo. However, having access to a Computer Assisted Detection (CAD) on information retrieval (IR) drew me to how I found that you plagiarized an article in Wikipedia. This plagiarism detection system (PDS) works wonders in micro scoping written products of literary value. Book publishing companies and newspapers organizations extensively use this system as their only means for survival and journalistic honesty. By way of fingerprinting, string matching, bag of words, citation analysis, stylometry, performance, and excellent memory; your type of writing is easy to detect of the violation of this fundamental rules and tradition of honest, truthful, and deserving writing. Yours was a classical specie that shine on your dishonesty and flagrant disregard of respect for those who strive to make good in what they do. You pay the price for thinking greater than yourself. Frankly, ignorance is looking for a black marble in a dark room during a stormy night when the lights were out. Your honesty in your writing should be your own, but stealing ideas from someone's is likened to a dinner meal that makes laxatives good for bowel stimulation. And, ignorance by an ignorant is what?

Francisco R. Agulto
Kanat Tabla

Fat and sassy

I am proud of my country and being a U.S. citizen. Several other locals are not though they pretend to be. Do I believe the U.S. military should be allowed training facilities on Tinian and Pagan? Absolutely, within reason. Why? Those fat and sassy can't/will never see the big picture: to protect their behinds by establishing a defensive shield against Red China's moves to dominate the oceans around us. Meaning?

China has falsely stated its historic ownership to the thousand square miles of the South China Sea and in the Spratly Islands it's currently dredging from sea bottom coral to construct hundreds of hectares of new land on once reefs and shoals for specific military purposes. Adjoining Asian nations, of course, with like ownership claims are contesting China's bullying actions. The potential for war is all too real. Our U.S. military has upped its presence there. China also attempted to cower Japan last year by establishing a no-fly-shoot-you-down zone over the East China Sea. Our U.S. military immediately tested China by flying over and sailing through the zone. So far no missiles have been launched—yet. And let's not forget communist Russia swiped Crimea from Ukraine and is now attempting to annex all of eastern Ukraine by military force. Russia's Pacific naval base is at Vladivostok a couple thousand miles north of the Marianas. A one-two threat too close for comfort. What I've pointed out here the F&S are blithering blind not to see.

Here's some questions for the fat & sassy: why hasn't China stolen (both) the SCS and shot down our airplanes over the ECS? Why hasn't Red China launched an attack against the Marianas and the western coast of the USA? Answer: the U.S. military's presence in Hawaii, Guam, South Korea, Japan, Philippines, Australia. They need more bases to strengthen its ability to respond in event of any and all hostile attack(s).

I bring to mind the *Marianas Variety*, July 3, 2015 edition, open letter by Tinian mayor Joey San Nicolas. The first half of his opinion, steeped in ideology and cleverly couched in political mugwumping, implied loyalty to America. The second half spoke to his true belief: fat and sassy. Too comfortable with living under the U.S. flag, he stated: "DOD's proposed plans is a bad policy and will have a long-lasting detrimental effect on the lives of the people of the CNMI." He knows nothing. Guam, Hawaii, and every other country with U.S. bases have survived and prospered on the military's dime. F&S Joey wants "detrimental" as in Armageddon? Take to the hills. Without the protection of the U.S. military Joey won't have time to take back his words after one rocket or missile or .50 caliber bullets shreds him and his.

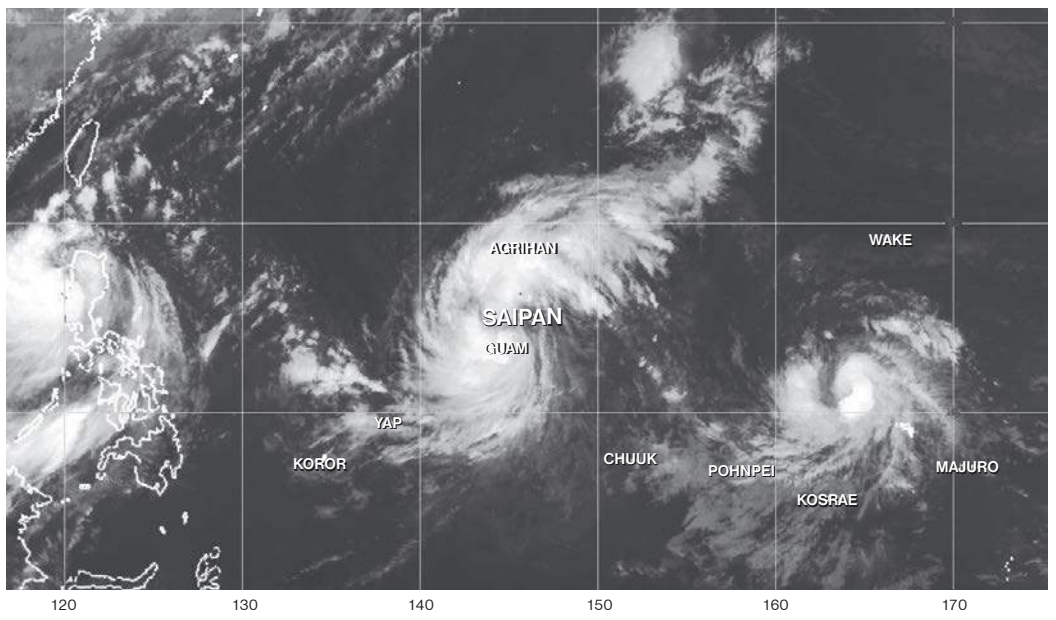
Lee Andersen
Via email

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 25 to 30 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Chan-hom (09W) is centered 25 miles north of Guam near 14N145E. Chan-hom has drifted slowly west-southwest with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. Scattered to numerous heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over Guam and the CNMI within 100 miles of a line from 11N143E to 18N147E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen farther northeast within 150 miles of a line from 18N147E to 20N152E. For more information on Tropical Storm Chan-hom, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Tropical Storm Nangka (11W) is centered 300 miles northwest of Kwajalein near 11N164E moving west at 14 mph with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph. Scattered heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near and northwest of the center between 8N and 13N from 161E to 168E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are also seen further north within 100 miles of a line from 16N164E to 15N170E. For more information on Tropical Storm Nangka, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ33 PGUM. A monsoon trough extends east-southeastward from east of Luzon across 18N130E through Tropical Storm Chan-hom and Tropical Storm Nangka to beyond 180 at 8N. Converging monsoonal winds south of the trough are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north-northwest of Koror across Yap within 70 miles of a line from 17N131E to 12N143E. Isolated thunderstorms are present near Chuuk within 55 miles of a line from 8N152E to 11N157E. An upper-level low centered northwest of Minami Tori Shima at 26N152E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of a line from 24N150E to 21N156E to 25N160E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲87	▼81
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲89	▼69
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87	▼78
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼75
London	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼60
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼61
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲52	▼46
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼80
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼71
Osaka	Cloudy	▲80	▼70
Paris	Sunny	▲86	▼66
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼65
Rome	Sunny	▲94	▼75
Salem	Sunny	▲98	▼60
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼57
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼66
Tokyo	Rain	▲75	▼67
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼71

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:04 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
6:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
10:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:00 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:22 PM	9:40 AM
Tuesday	11:09 PM	10:39 AM
Wednesday	11:56 PM	11:36 AM
Thursday		12:33 AM
Friday	12:43 AM	1:30 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 2, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

WIOA 2015 Summer Youth Employment Training Program Qualifiers

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR ALL QUALIFIERS

*****Placements will be announced on July 7, 2015*****

SAIPAN QUALIFIERS

1 ADA, Richard William C.
2 ADERKEROI, Francia Ungil D.
3 AGULTO, Ramon Jose R.
4 AGUON, Juan Carlos B.
5 AGUON, Mariano Junior A.
6 AGUON, Mayleen Ann T.
7 AGUSTIN, Sherwin M. Jr.
8 ALARZAR, Jan Rae M.
9 ALARZAR, John Ralph M.
10 AMANDUS, Cathy K.
11 AMANDUS, Tyrol
12 ANDY, Myron J.
13 ANSAY, Faith Rose Y.
14 ANSAY, Rich Angel Y.
15 APATANG, Bonita B.
16 BABAUTA, Brandon John T.
17 BABAUTA, Veronnie Ann S.
18 BABAUTA, Versalli R.
19 BABAUTA, Vinae Remae S.
20 BALBIN, Isaac Jae P.
21 BALBIN, Neyzaxeria Pinailugh B.
22 BALBIN, Nikolai Jay P.
23 BAYOT, Edryan M.
24 BILLY, Billy John A.
25 BILLY, J-lyn A.
26 BORJA, Franicia S.
27 BUEKIS, Florens Nafaman II C.
28 BUNUSEK, Jang J.
29 CABRERA, Dorcy Ann C.
30 CABRERA, Jonathan John A.
31 CABRERA, Zachary Jay C.
32 CAMACHO, Carmanda Carmen A.
33 CAMACHO, Darren James B.
34 CAMACHO, Isabel Rosa R.
35 CAMACHO, Joshua Michael Jr. A.
36 CARONAN, Edfel D.
37 CELESTE, Wilson Kenneth C.
38 CHARGUALAF, Caitlin DLG
39 CHONG, Francisco P.
40 CRUZ, David Jesse M.
41 DANFORD, Bobbie Jean II
42 DAWE, Angel G.
43 DAWE, Jess G.
44 DAWE, John G.
45 DEDIOS, Ferdinand Jr. G.
46 DEJILLAS, Reyleann Monica M.
47 DELA CRUZ, Cody James J.
48 DELA CRUZ, Kelvin Joshua T.
49 DEMAPAN, Joel John P.
50 DIAZ, Katherine Maire C.
51 DIONISIO, Frederick Kyle K.
52 DIONISIO, Mario Alberto K.
53 DIZON, Reanna Lyn DLC
54 DOCA, Ronald Andrew DLC
55 ELIAS, Isak J.R. R.
56 ENISER, Jason Michael
57 ESNER, Kinisou Tamison C.
58 ESNER, Krysner C.
59 FABIAN, Ternin S.
60 FAISAO, Jonavan Christopher C.
61 FAISAO, Kayleen Jennifer T.
62 FAISAO, Quirin Jay T.
63 FEJERAN, Jayjay Benigno S.
64 FERNANDEZ, Marijean F.
65 FERNANDEZ, Marvin F.
66 GILDILAK, Joseph Sumed C.
67 GUERRERO, Leneah Jade T.
68 HAYAG, Camille M.
69 HAYAG, Christine Sofia M.
70 HIGGINS, Mathen Pehmen P.
71 HONORIO, Encabo R. II
72 IDERBEI, Grant R.
73 IDERBEI, Jovanny R.
74 IDERBEI, Lennox R.
75 IGISOMAR, Leony Jane
76 IGITOL, Alvilina Divine S.
77 ILO, LITIWSAAR MIYOCO
78 ISKAWA, Rdechor Jr. T.
79 JACK, Zakari James
80 JAIMATOON, Manny P.
81 JOHNNEY, Keteny I.
82 JOHNNEY, Memoria May I.
83 JONES, Jesseme L.
84 JONES, Jesslyn L.
85 JONES, JJ L.
86 KAAINOA, Joelyn Deann M.
87 KAIPAT, Alosia Betty
88 KAIPAT, Christine Mary W.
89 KAIPAT, Dante Peterson
90 KAIPAT, Mariano Jayson W.
91 KAIPAT, Monalisa C.
92 KAIPAT, Pauleen-Malona W.
93 KAPILEO, Kurt Kyle T.
94 KASIAN, Roca I.
95 KEREMEN, Angela H.
96 KEREMEN, Mieko Reikonin H.
97 KING, Austin John M.
98 KING, Kursha Jo'an M.
99 LANGU, Richiko N.
100 LANIYO, Minola Jane I.
101 LEGASPI, Ryman L.
102 LEO, Lorenzy Monique E.
103 LEON GUERRERO, Nathan Drew H.
104 LIZAMA, Bryanna Marie B.
105 LIZAMA, Dorothea Camen D.
106 LIZAMA, Jack David D.
107 LIZAMA, Roque R.
108 MAFNAS, Eric John I. Jr.
109 MAFNAS, Tahani Cherise I.
110 MAGOFNA, Angeles Victoria K.
111 MAGOFNA, Penina Anastasha B.
112 MAGOFNA, Rickie Ann K.
113 MAGOFNA, Trinidad Felisa B.
114 MAI, Bettina F.N.
115 MANABAT, Maria Elena P.
116 MANALO, Jaybriana Marie B.
117 MARALIT, Jefren P.
118 MARALIT, Jirelle P.
119 MARATITA, Anabeata Maria C.
120 MARATITA, Donnina Elisa C.
121 MENCHOR, Mackson M.
122 METTAO, Jesse Ray O.
123 METTAO, Jim Gary O.
124 MEYERS, Nicole Q.
125 MICHAEL, James K.
126 MONI, Charity R.
127 MOSES, Brandon Lee S.
128 MUNA, Angela G.
129 MUNA, Camille Heloann G.
130 MUNA, Christy Ann G.
131 MUNA, Jennica Jazell I.
132 NEMEK, Brandon
133 NGIRACHELIONG, Delsita I.
134 NGIRAROIS, Troy
135 NIKITI, Teipo A,
136 NITEY, Hefer E.
137 NOBLE, Maria Abigail T.
138 NOBLE, Maria Angelica T.
139 OCAYA, Jacquelyn P.
140 OCAYA, Jordan Ace P.
141 OKARURU, Jerica Emelyn E.
142 OMAR, Damian J.
143 OMAR, Jeremiah Daniel J.
144 OMELAU, Andruw Antero R.
145 OMELAU, Martin Herman R.
146 OMELAU, Sheris Llusch R.
147 OMENGKAR, Kody Adrian M.
148 OMENGKAR, Kory Adam M.
149 ONOPWY, Brandy
150 OSCAR, Nancy A.
151 OSIAS, April Rose U.
152 PALATTAO, Allison Sheena G.
153 PALEMAI, Triana Pelma I.
154 PANGELINAN, Jonisha Alexis K.
155 PANGELINAN, Lordina Gineanne H.
156 PANGELINAN, Nathaniel Anthony
157 PAUL, Julius M.
158 PETER, Mfred
159 PINEDA, Sean Bennett D.
160 QUICHOCHO, Norman Martin A.
161 QUILALA, Jeze May H.
162 QUIMSON, Shiela Marie E.
163 RAY, Greyleen
164 REBUENOG, Lance Bernard H.
165 REGINIO, Celso M. Jr.
166 REGINIO, Daniella Marie M.
167 RELEVANTE, Rolliem A.
168 RELEVANTE, Tins Meirull
169 RENGIIL, Peterson K. Ray
170 REYES, Anthony Angel C. Jr.
171 REYES, Jerome V. Jr.
172 RIOS, David Junior E.
173 RIOS, Esteana A.
174 RIOS, Shaina Grace
175 RIUNGEL, Ricky Joe N.
176 ROBERT, Velma Ann S.
177 ROBERT, Vincent Bert
178 RUDOLPH, Hansan-Sam T.
179 SABLAN, Ryan Noel D.
180 SABLAN, Victoria Tinag D.
181 SABULAO, Kinaling Rose L.
182 SACHUO, Demson M.
183 SAN NICOLAS, Daniel Adrian A.
184 SANTOS, Angel T.
185 SANTOS, Dean Anthony Jr. M.
186 SANTOS, Patrick Jerome Jr. W.
187 SANTOS, Peter Jason B.
188 SASAMOTO, Zachary Jaime B.
189 SEBAKLIM, Laurina Ann D.
190 SEKOOL, Jerica Jersica P.
191 SEKOOL, Jersey P.
192 SEMAN, Mildred Joanna O.
193 SIECH, N-nes
194 SINOUNOU, Francisco J.
195 SUDA, Corina Mae
196 TAITANO, Shanalyn N.
197 TAMAN, Derek S.
198 TAMAN, Jason S.
199 TAMBIGA, Tichina Junemar S.
200 TAULE, Christian William O.
201 TEDTAOTAO, Juanna Josefina
202 TEREYAMA, Fermina C.
203 THEODORE, Kiana M.
204 THEY, Finson O.
205 THEY, Itheyvin O.
206 TIPINGENI, Joeann S.
207 TIPINGENI, Joethy Ystor CH.
208 TOMEI, Rodlee O.
209 TOMEI, Romney O.
210 UMBAY, Jasmine R.
211 VINUYA, Marie Janie A.
212 WABOL, Sirena Schupi R.
213 WEILBACHER, Germaine Andrea
214 WEILBACHER, Jasmine Brianne
215 WOL, Isabel Kayna T.
216 YUGUMANG, Jared

Orientation and Work Readiness Workshop for Saipan Qualifiers is on Friday, July 10, 2015 at the Multi-Purpose Center from 8:00am-5:00pm.

TINIAN QUALIFIERS

1 ALDAN, Brandon M.
2 ALDAN, Ha'ani K.
3 ALDAN, Perry M.
4 ATALIG, Themica Moesha
5 BALAGTAS, Roselynn G.
6 BARCINAS, Jan Kristopher G.
7 BARCINAS, Kenya Jade A.
8 BARCINAS, Shainna Jean A.
9 BORJA, Billy Dean M.
10 CABRERA, Anthony E. Jr.
11 CABRERA, Elsa Lyn A.
12 CABRERA, John Jerick T.
13 CABRERA, Phillip A.
14 CRUZ, Shawn Michael P.
15 DELA CRUZ, Aila Dina M.
16 DELA CRUZ, Jesus Francisco SN
17 DELA CRUZ, Manel Joseph Jr.
18 HOFSCHNEIDER, Edwin Jesus M.
19 HOFSCHNEIDER, Hannah Rose M.
20 MAITAS, Kenjiroho B.
21 MANGLONA, Zachary Peter P.
22 MANIBUSAN, Cumi Jake DLR
23 MANIBUSAN, Floicia DLR.
24 MARATITA, Keanalyn Kelsey A.
25 MARATITA, Victoria Susana A.
26 PANGELINAN, Joanna M.
27 PUA, Drake Dominic M.
28 SAN NICOLAS, Corey Jess A.
29 SAN NICOLAS, Stefan Fritz DLC
30 TAITANO, Amisha Ann B.
31 TAITANO, Peter David B.
32 TAITANO, Robeen Jane B.
33 UNTALAN, Kenneth B.

Orientation & Work Readiness Workshop is on Thursday, July 09, 2015 at the Northern Marianas College (NMC)-Instructional Site Room: D from 8am-4pm.

ROTA QUALIFIERS

1 APATANG, Deann Donica H.
2 APATANG, Devin Alfred H.
3 BARCINAS, Jeb S.
4 BARCINAS, John S. Jr.
5 BORJA, Anika Hope A.
6 CABRERA, Luraina Dee
7 HIZON, Raccine Gerard R.
8 HOCOG, Taylor Ann O.
9 LIZAMA, Austin Dre A.
10 LIZAMA, Daniel R.
11 LIZAMA, Ignacio Jr. II
12 LIZAMA, Pauline Benett R.
13 LIZAMA, Va'ina A.
14 MANALANG, Catherine L.
15 MANGLONA, Brendon A.
16 MANGLONA, Randall A.
17 MANGLONA, Roman M. III
18 MANGLONA, Vincent Thomas M.
19 MASGA, Darlene P.
20 MASGA, Ronierick S.
21 OGO, Fabian B. Jr.
22 QUITUGUA, Noah Cole B.
23 RANGAMAR, Dannuell P.
24 RANGAMAR, Darien P.
25 TAIMANAO, Palanga Tiara B.

Orientation & Work Readiness Workshop is on Wednesday, July 08, 2015 at the Northern Marianas College (NMC)-Instructional Site Room: A1 from 8am-4pm.

4TH OF JULY

Island soldiers speak of struggle amid revelry

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Decia Ann Apatang Augustave with her husband and children. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thomas Joseph Santos with his wife and children. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

While people across the country are lighting fireworks and families are gathering to take part in 4th of July revelry marking another year since America declared its independence from Great Britain, a different sentiment is felt when speaking to those fighting to protect our freedom.

For CNMI soldiers Thomas Joseph Santos and Decia Ann Apatang Augustave being away from their families has been the hardest part of joining the armed forces.

Augustave, a private first class and food service specialist, entered the military nearly one year ago and found her soulmate, Javon, eventually marrying him. As parent soldiers, Decia, who is stationed in Korea, and Javon, who is stationed in Virginia, told *Saipan Tribune* that they are "working hard to bring our family together and build as one." She added, "It has been a struggle but we are working together to make it work."

The Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School alumna explained that she joined the military to pursue a life-long passion of service as well as support her own child.

In retrospect, she added, "Joining the military was one of the best decisions I have ever made".

Even with the every day struggle, the 21-year-old Rota lass said that after contemplating for two years in high school, she could not think of a better way to serve the islands than having a career that defends the country and protects people's freedom.

She recounts how rich in culture and respect growing up in the islands has made her.

"Having that made me realize that I could do anything and everything even without money. It shows how much you could survive in a place so small and come out to a fast pace life and still manage to keep that respect, which is all that matters. Growing up on Rota, has affected me in a great way," she said.

Santos, a 29-year-old staff sergeant and engineer, told a similar story.

The Saipan native, currently stationed at Fort Stewart, in Georgia, entered the armed forces in September of 2004. Shortly after graduating from Marianas High School, he joined the service to fulfill his grandfather's dream of seeing him in the military.

"I joined the service to try something different," he said. "To see if I had what it took to be a U.S. Army soldier."

"Military life has been good to us," he added. "Being able to have my kids get a good education is what we like."

Santos explained how his being away from home is something that everyone in his family struggled with.

After being deployed a total of four times, Santos said "not being able to see family was and still is hard."

Santos lost his leg in an injury he suffered in Afghanistan, but continues to move forward saying that he has "no regrets staying in the military".

Santos and Augustave are a part of a larger number of military families with similar narratives. According to the Department of Defense, there are 1.9 million military children, 765,000 of whom have active-duty parents. About 225,000 of the same figure have one parent who is currently deployed. The department also provided information stating that 73,000 service members are active-duty single parents, and 40,000 are active-duty dual military parents.

As a nation celebrates Independence Day under a sky illuminated by fireworks, we are reminded that when troops answer the call of duty, their families do too.

Olopai is Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lino Mettao Olopai—an educator, a preservationist, a storyteller, and a navigator—was recognized as this year's Citizen of the Year by the Rotary Club of Saipan.

At a ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan last Tuesday, Olopai's contributions to the CNMI were highlighted.

"Olopai is known throughout the community for his lifelong passion in the preservation of Carolinian traditions, customs, and cultural identity," club past president Mike Sablan said.

"Tonight we honor him for his efforts in this area and for all his many achievements and contributions toward making our community a better place for all of us," he added.

Olopai, said he is "deeply humbled" by the award.

"I never expected anything in return for things that I've been doing as ordinary citizens. I am truly lost for kind words, except to say, thank you all so very much," Olopai said.

"I am deeply honored and privileged to stand before you and accept this recognition you have just bestowed upon me," he added.

Ever humble, Olopai said he is accepting the award on behalf of those who helped him become who he is today.

"I am accepting this Citizen of the Year award on behalf of the Carolinan community, my families, my elders who are no longer here with us tonight but I am indebted to them, because they are the ones who shaped and mold me through traditional oral teachings to become who I am today,"

» Posadas named Rotarian of the Year

Among many of his works, Olopai is known as the author of the book "The Rope of Tradition: Reflections of a Saipan Carolinian." It tells of his life and work to keep the culture he grew up with alive.

In his speech, Olopai mentioned again the need for the oral teachings to continue in the society instead of just focusing on western teachings. In oral teachings, one learns values, cultures, and tradition—lessons that are sometimes more valuable.

However, Olopai also calls for balance between the two teachings and somehow recognized the advancement of technology.

Ending his speech with a joke and an "advice" from his grandchildren he said: "If you want to know more about Lino, just Google me."

Rotarian of the year

The Rotary Club also honored one of their members as 2015 Rotarian of the Year.

"The Rotarian of the year is a special reward and I would suspect, I never won it, but I would suspect that those who won it are proud to possess such an award," now past president Richard Cody said.

He noted that officers and directors are not included on the list of those who could receive such an award.

"Rotarian of the year comes from the general membership," he said.

This year, Rotarian Wendell Posadas was chosen by Cody.

Posadas, who was inducted as a club member just this March, said he didn't expect to be recognized. "I was surprised," Posadas said.

Posadas will serve the club as director for vocational services for the current year 2015-2016.

Aside from being a member of the Rotary Club, Posadas is also a teacher at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. He teaches automotive as well as air-conditioning classes.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
Lino Mettao Olopai, known for his efforts in preserving culture and writing the book "The Rope of Tradition," is Rotary Club Saipan's 2015 Citizen of the Year.

FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
Rotary Club Saipan hails Wendell Posadas as Rotarian of the Year for 2015. Posadas will serve the club this year as its director for vocational services.

After consultations, Igisomar withdraws bill on free trade zones

By JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) has withdrawn a proposed legislation to establish free trade zones in the CNMI.

There are existing FTZ laws on the CNMI, but Igisomar's bill will include the Northern Islands as possible site for FTZs.

"I got positive feedback from the different agencies and mayors," Igisomar said, adding the consultations were held on Wednesday.

Igisomar explained that Senate Bill 19-29 essentially "pressures" the Department of Public Lands to assign Pagan, which is part of the Northern Islands, as an FTZ.

The FTZ bill would have also paved the way to address other concerns including the resettlement of Pagan residents as well as homesteading programs.

The core business of the FTZ on the Northern Islands would have been ecotourism since the zones are proposed to be established near the seaport and airport.

"The idea is start the development from there," Igisomar said.

However, upon consultation with government agencies, including the Department of Public Lands, Igisomar said he has withdrawn SB 19-29.

One question from the DPL is the potential leases of trade zone areas, which are public lands, Igisomar said.

The DPL has sole discretion to determine leasing negotiations for public lands not exceeding 5 hectares, according to the CNMI Constitution.

A free trade zone board is mandated to handle the negotiations, which run counter to DPL's mandate on the public land leases.

Igisomar said this is one of the reasons why he has withdrawn the bill for further review and to incorporate the DPL's comments.

The Commonwealth Development Authority and Carolinian Affairs Office were also consulted, but Igisomar did not disclose any feedback from these agencies.

In March, Igisomar pre-filed SB 19-29 aiming to bring agencies together to set off the process of resettling Pagan.

SB 19-29 seeks to amend Public Law 18-16 on free trade zones so that the departments of Public Works, Public Lands, and Lands and Natural Resources, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority can collaborate and cooperate with the Northern Islands mayor in identifying free trade zones on Pagan.

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Is inviting qualified U.S Citizens to apply for the following vacant positions

Position: (1) BARTENDER
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent with minimum 2 years work experience in the preparation of mixed cocktails required. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential. Able to work flexible hours including evenings and/or weekends.

Position: (4) F&B SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: Strong customer service skills and people oriented. Must be reliable and self-motivated. Is able to stand for long periods of time and lift up to 25 pounds. Minimum 3 years work experience as F&B supervisor, preferably in a hotel. Foreign language skills are a plus. Must be able to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Position: (1) PAINTER
Qualifications: 2 years work experience as a painter. Must have an eye for detail and good judgment. Must be able to carry and lift up to 35 pounds without any assistance. Able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (2) PLUMBER
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years plumbing experience, preferably in a hotel or similar large building or complex with central plant. Knowledge of the tools, equipment, and materials common to the plumbing trade is required. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather and able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (2) STEWARD SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: 3 years experience in stewarding; 1 year experience as stewarding supervisor. Must be able to work long hours and handle pressure. Must have strong knowledge of sanitation procedure and heath codes and implementation. Able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (1) ACCOUNTING ANALYST- Accounts Payable/Disbursements
Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting is preferred. 3 years progressive experience in accounts payable and general accounting experience. Strong knowledge of relevant computer software application, particularly SAP, R3, and FICO. Proficient in data entry and management. Must have strong problem and communication skills. Attention to detail and accuracy is essential. Must be able to work under pressure. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required. ¬

Position: (2) ACCOUNTING ANALYST- Accounts Receivable
Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting preferred. 3 years progressive experience in accounts receivable operations. Must have strong knowledge of relevant computer software applications, particularly SAP, R3, and FICO. Proficient in data entry and management. Must have strong problem and communication skills. Attention to detail and accuracy is essential. Must be able to work under pressure. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Position: (1) COST ACCOUNTANT
Qualifications: Generally responsible for ensuring that food and beverage costs are within hotel standards. Renders regular reporting of food and beverage costs to management. Calculates food cost of regular menu items and assists banquet department in costing special banquet menus. Witness/participates in the periodic physical inventory counts and reports to immediate supervisor for any major discrepancies. Bachelor's Degree in accounting, business, or finance is preferred. Minimum of 3 years work experience as cost accountant, preferably in a hotel. Proficient in computer software applications, particularly SAP, R3, and FICO. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Position: (1) PURCHASING SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting preferred. Minimum of 3 years progressive work experience as a purchasing supervisor, preferably in a hotel or fast-paced environment. Ability to make judgments regarding alternative means of procuring materials/goods or services based on cost and serviceability. Ability to pay close attention to detail with a high degree of accuracy. Ability to adapt to changes in work environment, work assignments, and/or changes in priorities. Proficient in Microsoft Office applications and other software particularly SAP, R3, and FICO. Experienced with inventories to include, but not limited to, Food and Beverage, dry goods, and Housekeeping Cleaning & Guest Supplies is a requirement. Willing to work flexible schedule on occasion including weekends.

Position: (1) FOOD AND BEVERAGE ASSISTANT
Qualifications: 3 years experience and responsibility in management level in food & beverage from a high volume restaurant or hotel is preferred. Strong customer and people skills are essential. Must be able to work under pressure and time constraints. Strong organizational and time management skills are necessary. Knowledgeable on sanitation and health regulation and implementation thereof. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early mornings, weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (2) GUEST RELATIONS AGENT
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. 1-2 years previous work experience as guest relations agent in a high volume hotel is highly preferred. Language speaking skill in Japanese, Korean or Chinese is advantageous. Strong customer service and communication skills are essential. Must have good problem solving skills. Must be able to multitask and is a team player. Knowledge of computer applications is required. Must be able to work flexible schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (1) INCOME AUDITOR
Qualifications: 4 years progressive experience as an income auditor preferably in a high volume hotel. AA or BA in either accounting or in the hospitality finance is preferred. Strong math and computer skills, particularly with spreadsheets; knowledgeable with accounting software particularly in SAP, R3, and FICO are required. Must have an eye for detail; strong time management and organizational skills are essential. Must be able to work under pressure and can work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Position: (1) EXECUTIVE HOUSEKEEPER
Qualifications: 6 months to a year of experience in the housekeeping industry in a high volume hotel. Must show documented success during 6 months to a year of progressive experience and responsibility in management level. Proficient in a hotel property management system and computer software applications. Excellent time management and organizational skills. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, and holidays. Must be able to stand on feet for long periods of time.

Position: (1) DIRECTOR OF ROOMS
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years progressive experience in a comparable position in a luxury hotel operation. Excellent guest service and resolution skills. Strong knowledge of all aspects of Rooms Division operations; strong organizational and interpersonal skills. Must have the flexibility to meet the demands of a 24 hour operation and the ability to work comprehensively with spreadsheets and budgeting packages. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (3) HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year prior cleaning experience in a large building complex is preferred but willing to train the right candidate. Must be able to lift and carry up to 30 pounds. Must have attention to detail, working carefully within the minimum time is essential. Can work flexible schedule including weekends, nights, holidays, and back-to-back when necessary.

Position: (1) GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKER
Qualifications: 2 years experience as a general maintenance worker in repairing or replacing defective equipment parts, using hand tools and power tools and reassemble equipment is required. Must be able to work independently. Must be able to carry and lift up to 35 pounds. Must be a team player and has good interpersonal skills. Able to work flexible schedule including nights, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (6) COOK
Qualifications: 2 years experience as a cook in international cuisine is required and preferably from a high volume restaurant or hotel. Must have problem solving abilities, be self-motivated, and organized. Must be able to work under pressure and adaptable to last minute work preparation. Able to work nights, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (2) DEMI CHEF
Qualifications: High School Graduate or GED. Must be able to work under extreme pressure, stand on feet for long periods of time and work in a heated environment. Strong organizational skills. 2 years previous experience as a lead cook in a high volume restaurant or hotel. Is able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (1) DIRECTOR OF SALES & MARKETING
Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Sales & Marketing or Business preferred with a minimum of 6 years related experience with progressive managerial experience. Demonstrated in-depth sales, marketing techniques, and financial principles. Effective ability to communicate orally or in written form effectively with co-management, internal, and external customers. Fluency in Japanese language is highly preferred. Able to work in the field on occasion and travel off island to attend sales meetings as necessary. Must be willing to work flexible schedule including holidays and weekends.

Position: (1) ELECTRICIAN
Qualifications: 2 years progressive work experience as electrician in industrial, commercial, and residential building electrical works. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (1) MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT
Qualifications: BA in accounting and minimum 7 years progressive experience in finance and accounting management preferably in a hotel of high volume. Proficient in the use of SAP, R3, FICO software, and other hotel's front office and POS systems. Must have a clear understanding of internal audits and annual audits. Strong written and verbal communication, interpersonal and customer service skills. Must be willing to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays whenever necessary.

Position: (1) MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR
Qualifications: 4 years of progressive experience as maintenance coordinator in a large building complex or hotel is highly preferred. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential. Must have the ability to multitask and have good time management skills. Must be proficient in computer software applications. Must be willing to work flexible schedule including holidays and weekends.

Position: (1) FRONT DESK MANAGER
Qualifications: Must have a minimum of 3 years experience in Front Desk Management in a high volume hotel or full service hotel. Strong communication skills both written and verbal are necessary; demonstrated leadership abilities. Must have an energetic and dynamic personality and able to multitask. Must be proficient in computer software applications. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (1) NIGHT AUDITOR
Qualifications: 3 years experience in hotel internal auditing preferably in a high volume hotel. Strong knowledge of mathematics and their applications. Excellent customer and interpersonal skills. Effective communication and strong computer skills are essential. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (2) LAUNDRY ATTENDANT
Qualifications: Employees in these occupations need anywhere from a few months to one year of working with experienced employees. A recognized apprenticeship program may be associated with these occupations. Experience as a laundry worker is required, preferably in a high volume hotel or establishment such as a hospital. Must be able to lift and carry 35 pounds. Must be able to stand on feet throughout work shift. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, back-to-back, nights, and holidays. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential.

Position: (1) ACCOUNTING MANAGER
Qualifications: A minimum of a bachelor's degree with an emphasis in accounting. 5 years experience in the area of financial statement preparation, budgeting, payroll, purchasing, accounts payable and accounts receivable, or the equivalent. Experience working with an automated financial management system. Knowledge and ability in the use of a personal computer and software applications particularly SAP, R3, and FICO. Strong organizational and analytical skills and the ability to maintain detailed records; ability to work effectively under stressful conditions. Able to communicate both written and oral. Must be able to work a varied schedule including holidays and weekends when required. The applicant must successfully complete a background check.

Position: (1) IT MANAGER
Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in computer science or equivalent education and experience. Knowledge of website technologies. 3 years progressive IT experience in management level including experience in a multi office environment. Demonstrated ability to lead a team of technical staff to work with the Executive management of an organization and to manage multiple concurrent projects. Excellent verbal and communication skills; strong management skills. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (1) SUPERVISOR, GENERAL ACCOUNTANT
Qualifications: College graduate, Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting preferred. 4 years progressive work experience as an accountant in supervisory level. Must be computer literate and proficient in accounting software application particularly SAP, R3, and FICO. Must have strong organizational skills and be a team player. Must be able to work under pressure and time constraints. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when required.

Position: (1) FOOD & BEVERAGE DIRECTOR
Qualifications: 5 years of progressive responsibility in food & beverage from a full service hotel or high volume restaurant in management position. Experienced in managing food costs, upholding menu standards, and controlling inventory. Must be able to create event-specific menus for occasions as banquets, conferences, and catering meetings. Knowledgeable of serve safe sanitary procedures and health codes, overall compliance of all health regulations for food preparation. Proficient with computer software applications. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (2) GUEST RELATIONS SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: 2 years experience in front office in a supervisory capacity and preferably from a full service hotel/resort. Must be able to supervise and coordinate the activities of guest relations workers to ensure that guests on vacation or business travel have a pleasant experience, while also ensuring the establishment is run efficiently and profitably. Must be proficient in computer software applications. Strong customer service and time management skills are essential. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, holidays, weekends, and nights.

Position: (1) MAINTENANCE MANAGER
Qualifications: 5 years of skilled and increasingly responsible experience in building construction or maintenance work of which 2 years shall have been in management level. Knowledge of tools, materials, working practices and methods of the building trades, equipment, working procedures and methods required in a hotel property and grounds maintenance program, and in the repair and minor construction of hotel facilities, landscaping, plant propagation, soils, insecticides and gardening tools, laws affecting maintenance, repair and construction of the hotel facility, principles of supervision, training and management. Must be willing to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (1) SALES EXECUTIVE- KOREAN MARKET
Qualifications: 1 year progressive experience in sales & marketing. Excellent oral and written communication in English and Korean. Must have a personable and charming personality. Has good presentation, reasoning, and negotiation with clients. Highly motivated and results-oriented. Can work effectively within the sales support teams for the achievement of guest satisfaction, revenue generation, and long-term account goals in line with the company's vision and values. Must be willing to extend and work for long hours when necessary. May be required to travel off-island to attend sales meetings when necessary. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (3) FOOD & BEVERAGE SENIOR SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: 2 years progressive work experience as a supervisor in food & beverage from a high volume restaurant or full service hotel. Excellent customer service skills, organizational and communication skills are essential. Knowledgeable with health, fire and sanitation regulations. Proficient with POS system. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (1) SUPERVISOR- ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
Qualifications: College graduate, major in accounting is preferred OR 2 years progressive experience in account payable operations in supervisory level. Strong personal computer skills is essential. Proficient knowledge in using SAP, FICO, and R3 accounting systems. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays when necessary.

Position: (1) MASON
Qualifications: Knowledge of related tools, masonry techniques, equipment, and materials. Skill in the construction, alteration, repair, and maintenance of masonry structures and surfaces. 3 years masonry or bricklaying experience is required. Able to work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (5) HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: 2 years hotel experience in housekeeping at a supervisory level. Must have excellent communication skills and basic computer knowledge. Strong customer and interpersonal skills. Good stamina – is able to stand on feet for long period of time and can lift and carry up to 30 pounds. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (1) ROOM RESERVATIONS SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: 2 years progressive work experience in rooms reservations in a supervisory level is required and preferably in a large volume hotel. Creative conflict resolution skills are essential to this position. Ability to use reservation software and manage guest database. Must be organized and posses strong communication and interpersonal skills. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (1) MECHANICAL SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: BA degree in mechanical engineering or related field AND 4 years of mechanical engineering or related experience OR 8 years of mechanical engineering or related experience OR any equivalent combination of experience and/or education from which comparable knowledge, skills, and abilities have been achieved. Must be willing to work a varied schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (2) STEWARD SUPERVISOR
Qualifications: 3 years experience in stewarding; 1 year stewarding supervisor experience. Must be able to work long hours and handle pressure. Have strong knowledge on Health and sanitation procedure and implementation. Able to work a flexible schedule including weekends and holidays.

Position: (14) WAIT STAFF
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. 2 years of actual experience as wait staff is highly preferred. Ability to calculate figures, volumes and mathematical conversions. Ability to respond to common inquiries complaints from customers. Ability to write and speak clearly and effectively in English, multilingual desirable, preferably Japanese, Korean, and Chinese (but not required). Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (2) BAKER
Qualifications: Six months to one year experience in creating breads and other baked goods, such as cakes, pies, and other pastries. Strong math skills, detail oriented. Familiar with baking equipment. Excellent stamina, ability to stand for long periods of time, and can lift and carry up to 35 pounds easily without any assistance. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights, and holidays.

Position: (1) RESTAURANT MANAGER
Qualifications: 3 years progressive experience as a restaurant manager and preferably from a high volume restaurant or hotel. Strong communication, interpersonal, and customer service skills are essential. Requires ability to work under pressure and time constraints. Requires much of your time on your feet, moving between different areas and restaurant outlets. Fluency in the Japanese language is highly advantageous. Must be able to work a flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends, and holidays.

Position: (1) ASSISTANT MANAGER- ROOMS DIVISION
Qualifications: Two years experience as an Assistant Rooms Division Manager in a high volume hotel is preferred. Excellent customer service skills and ability to communicate effectively with customers and management team. Proficient with hotel property management system and computer software applications are essential. Must have profound knowledge in rooms management. Ability to speak and write in Japanese is preferred. Must be able to work flexible schedule including early morning hours, nights, weekends, and holidays.

Applications can be obtained at the Security Office at the Hotel's South Wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than July 7, 2015.
Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans, and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

WOMEN IN THE KNOW: Rica Ann Sablan Dela Cruz

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Author's note: Saipan Tribune *will be featuring leading women in higher education every week in its newest 10-part series, Women In The Know. Andrea Hofschneider was previously featured for earning her Master of Accountancy from Golden Gate University in 2013. Hofschneider has recently passed all four sections of the Uniform CPA exam and is currently working on additional requirements to become a licensed Certified Public Accountant. This week's Woman in the Know is Rica Dela Cruz.*

Twenty-seven-year-old Rica Ann Sablan Dela Cruz. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

When she was in high school, Rica Ann Sablan Dela Cruz said she would not have imagined pursuing a career in public health. Now, the 27-year-old will be graduating with a Masters in Public Health, with a focus in epidemiology, next June from the University of California, Los Angeles Fielding School of Public Health.

"My main goal is to improve the health of pacific islanders and their communities," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "… I will be returning to the islands after my studies and training."

Dela Cruz grew up on Navy Hill and attended Whispering Palms School for grade school and middle school.

Before matriculating to the West Coast, Dela Cruz graduated from the prestigious Punahou School in Hawaii. During her time there, she was an avid high school cross-country and track-and-field athlete as well as a member of the clay club, which made ceramic pottery art.

After graduating from Punahou, she attended Bryn Mawr College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where she earned her bachelors degree in biology.

"I chose to study biology during my undergrad because I was very interested in learning how living organisms functioned and it fascinated me how such tiny cells and molecules made up our bodies and every living thing around us," she added. " Although, I did not continue studying biology after college, my biology degree definitely provided a strong foundation to study public health."

A strong foundation, she said, that was strengthened by her parents, Jose and Rita.

"Growing up in the CNMI definitely helped me become the open-minded, service-oriented, and humble person I am today. Growing up in a small island, you learn to share resources, help one another, and appreciate the simple things in life," she explained.

After moving to the mainland, Dela Cruz said she learned how unique of a place the CNMI is and" how imperative it is to sustain its people and communities".

She noted that learning how to better serve her island community has been the driving force for her success.

"I have always had an interest in the healthcare field because of my desire to have a career where I am helping people become healthy and happy and I am giving back to my community," she said. "… I chose to specifically study epidemiology in public health because one of the goals of epidemiology is to answer why people get sick in the first place."

Discerning what university to attend for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees involved much research.

"I did a lot of research on not just the school, but the specific program I was interested in."

She explained that student population size, available funding, curriculum requirements, and the overall environment were salient factors in selecting an institution of higher education to attend.

After narrowing her options to five universities, Dela Cruz said she chose UCLA because of its "rigorous curriculum and funding opportunities".

She urges young local students to find heir passion and a career that suits it.

"I think students get hung up on what is a 'prestigious' career and what other people tell them to do," she opined. "Listen to their suggestions, but in the end pick what you want to do because it is going to be your life and you should do what you love."

She reminds the island youth to not fear failure; "Failure can teach you a lot about yourself and what you truly want."

Dela Cruz added, "On that same note, don't give up if what you failed at really is what you are passionate about. Just remember, hard work and kindness go a long way!"

'Career criminal' gets 3 years in jail for violating probation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has imposed a three-year prison sentence on notorious habitual offender Ramon Cabrera Blas for violating his probation.

In an order issued Thursday, Wiseman reiterated the court's position stated at several other hearings for Blas and also mentioned by the government, that the defendant "is a continuing menace to our community" and should be incapacitated or isolated from society by remaining in prison for the allowable maximum term, which in this case is three years.

» In-an-out of jail for 37 years with 13 convictions out of 18 cases

Blas, 56, is to be released on July 1, 2018.

Wiseman noted that the defendant's first case of record was when he was only 20 years old and now, 37 years later with at least 18 total criminal cases, he is in court again for sentencing for violating the terms and conditions of his probation.

The judge said defendant's criminal record, which spans a period of 37 years and at least 18 criminal cases, reaffirms that he is still a threat to the community with his unrelenting and continuous pattern of thefts and burglaries.

"Defendant has proven over and over again that he is a poor probation risk. He is, in the court's view, a career criminal," Wiseman said.

According to the prosecution, of 18 criminal cases, Blas was convicted in 13 cases.

Wiseman said that, on April 4, 2012, he reluctantly accepted defendant's plea agreement and sentenced him to five years imprisonment, all suspended except for two years.

Wiseman said he mentioned at that time the significant repercussions his crimes have had on the community.

The judge said he also stated that Blas should seriously consider changing his ways or he will spend many of his remaining years in jail if convicted again in this court.

Unfortunately, Wiseman said, Blas did not heed the court's message and within several months after his release from prison, he was again arrested and charged for committing burglary and theft.

Last April 22, Wiseman revoked defendant's probation.

Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas requested the court to impose a sentence for the entire suspended sentence of three years.

Barcinas said since 1979 Blas has been in-and-out of prison for various offenses and now at the age of 56 he is still terrorizing the community with his criminal activities.

"The community must be protected from criminals like Ramon Blas, who has complete disregard for the laws of the Commonwealth and has a complete disregard for the probation orders from the court; and therefore must retire at the Department of Corrections," Barcinas said.

Assistant public defender Michael A. Sato, counsel for Blas, recommended a sentence of six months in prison and allow him to continue with his probation.

Sato said statistically, it is an inefficient use of government resources to confine Blas at DOC.

Last November, police arrested Blas for allegedly burglarizing an apartment complex in San Vicente and stealing a couple's jewelry, money, and other items worth $22,875.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that Blas burglarized an apartment unit owned by retired Judge Juan T. Lizama last Aug. 21 and Nov. 9.

Bordallo celebrates promotion of Lt. Col. San Nicolas

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo poses with U.S. Army Major Gina San Nicolas during her promotional ceremony to lieutenant colonel.

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo recently attended a ceremony on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial recognizing the promotion of U.S. Army Major Gina San Nicolas to lieutenant colonel. The ceremony was presided over by General Daniel B. Allyn, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army.

"I am extremely proud of all of our soldiers from Guam and today was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments and leadership potential of Lieutenant Colonel Gina San Nicolas" said Bordallo. "Gina has recently served with distinction as the Aide de Camp to the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, General Dan Allyn, and I look forward to following her career and future successes as she moves on to assume new leadership challenges in her follow-on assignments. She is a great role model for our young women on Guam who wish to serve our nation as leaders in the military. " ***(PR)***

Business

Yes or no? What Greece's landmark vote might bring

LONDON (AP)—On his 10-year trip home, the Greek hero Odysseus at one point had to steer his ship and crew down a narrow stretch of water menaced on opposite sides by two sea monsters, Scylla and Charybdis.

The Greek people are in similar dire straits as they prepare to vote on a future in which they face two painful prospects: the slow grind of years more of austerity cuts or the country's potentially catastrophic exit from the euro.

The question is whether their vote on Sunday can help them escape either. "Yes" to more budget cuts in exchange for a financial aid package for the country? Or reject it in the hope it will not lead the country out of the euro?

The referendum question makes no reference to Greece's future in the currency union. It is on a set of proposals that European creditors say they have withdrawn following the failure to forge a deal with Greece before an end-June deadline.

For the radical left-led Greek government, the proposals were unacceptable. It's urging a "no" vote and says that will have no impact on Greece's euro status.

Proponents of a "yes" vote, including a parade of former prime ministers and the main opposition party, say backing the government will jeopardize Greece's place in the euro. Instead, they argue that by voting "yes" Greece would get a new deal quickly to shore up the economy.

In fact, what might happen in each case is unclear. Analysts in the world's biggest investment banks are putting percentage probabilities to outcomes, such as Greece's exit from the euro, but no one knows for sure.

A "yes" vote backing the reform proposals creditors had made would likely see Greece turn immediately to talks on a new rescue package. Whether that leads to a swift deal that might allow Greece to reopen its banks and restore a semblance of normality to the life of citizens and tourists is another question.

Much would likely depend on what happens on the political front.

Government faces burden in proving airlines worked together

WASHINGTON (AP)—As the Justice Department launches an investigation into possible collusion in the airline industry, experts say the government faces the burden of proving that carriers were deliberately signaling business decisions to each other.

Airlines routinely increase flights based on demand. A particularly cold winter in the Northeast, for instance, might merit more flights to the Caribbean. And sometimes, routes are cut because there isn't enough demand. Nothing is illegal about that.

Any company can limit the supply of its own products, whether airline tickets, sneakers or smartphones. But it would be illegal for airlines to work together to limit flights in order to drive up fares.

The government's investigation is just in its initial phases. Letters went out this week to American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines and United Airlines. Together, those four carriers control more than 80 percent of the domestic seats on planes.

Airlines are quick to say they can't talk about pricing decisions. But in recent years, airline executives and Wall Street analysts have been much more open in discussing how the airlines have kept their passenger capacity—the number of seats they put into given markets—in check. With that capacity kept from growing too fast, airplanes have been fuller and carriers have been able to command higher ticket prices. That's led to record profits.

Job market's new normal: Smaller workforce, sluggish pay

WASHINGTON (AP)—Even after another month of strong hiring in June and a sinking unemployment rate, the U.S. job market just isn't what it used to be.

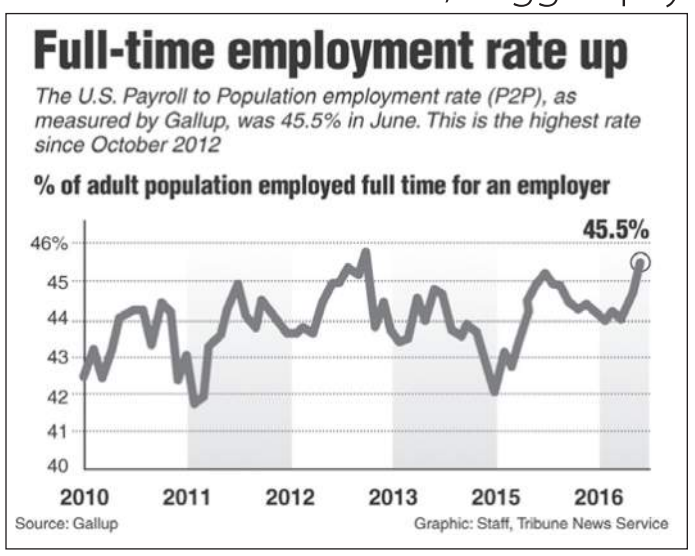
Pay is sluggish. Many part-timers can't find full-time work. And a diminished share of Americans either have a job or are looking for one.

Yet in the face of global and demographic shifts, this may be what a nearly healthy U.S. job market now looks like.

An aging population is sending an outsize proportion of Americans into retirement. Many younger adults, bruised by the Great Recession, are postponing work to remain in school to try to become more marketable. Global competition and the increasing automation of many jobs are holding down pay.

Many economists think these trends will persist for years despite steady job growth. It helps explain why the Federal Reserve is widely expected to start raising interest rates from record lows later this year even though many job measures remain far below their pre-recession peaks.

"The Fed may recognize that this is a new labor-market normal, and it will begin to normalize monetary policy," said Patrick O'Keefe, an economist at accounting and consulting firm CohnReznick.



Thursday's monthly jobs report from the government showed that employers added a solid 223,000 jobs in June and that the unemployment rate fell to 5.3 percent from 5.5 percent in May. Even so, the generally improving job market still bears traits that have long been regarded as weaknesses. Among them:

The unemployment rate didn't fall in June because more people were hired. The rate fell solely because the number of people who had become dispirited and stopped looking for work far exceeded the number who found jobs.

The percentage of Americans in the workforce—defined as those who either have a job or are actively seeking one—dropped to 62.6 percent, a 38-year low, from 62.9 percent. (The figure was 66 percent when the recession began in 2007.) Fewer job holders typically mean weaker growth for the economy. The growth of the labor force slowed to just 0.3 percent in 2014, compared with 1.1 percent in 2007.

Nation

America celebrates Independence Day with fireworks, parades

Americans celebrated 239 years as an independent nation on Saturday with extravagant fireworks displays, rock and classical concerts and parades both big and small. Here were some highlights of Independence Day festivities around the nation:

AP

Fireworks explode over the East River in front of the Manhattan skyline as seen from the Brooklyn borough of New York during the Macy's Fourth of July fireworks show Saturday, July 4, 2015.

Fireworks show

Hundreds of thousands of people braved tight security along New York City's East River to watch the annual Macy's Fourth of July fireworks display.

Minneapolis resident Joe Cunningham said Saturday's fireworks show was "awesome" and lived up to his family's expectations.

Cunningham said New York's show will be the benchmark for all other fireworks displays.

Macy's said the 25-minute show featured more than 50,000 shells set off from five barges on the river.

The fireworks show was broadcast on NBC.

The tight security included officers searching backpacks and purses. Other officers used hand-held radiation detectors to scan baby carriages and large suitcases.

'Incredible blessings'

President Barack Obama says U.S. service members make it possible to enjoy the "incredible blessings" in the greatest country on earth.

He says "freedom is not free" but is paid for by all the men and women of the military, including those who blanketed the White House South Lawn for a concert in their honor by Bruno Mars.

Obama spoke minutes before the annual Fourth of July fireworks lit up the night sky over the National Mall. He was accompanied by Michelle Obama.

Heavy rain that soaked Washington all day forced the White House to cancel its annual Fourth of July picnic for members of the military and their families.

The USO military service organization sponsored the concert that featured a performance by Mars.

Gay rights

Gay rights activists gathered in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia on the Fourth of July to mark the progress of their movement and pay tribute to those who launched it a half-century ago.

But they also made it clear that the fight for equality was far from over.

LGBT activist Aisha Moodie-Mills hailed the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriages nationwide, but said in many places "you can still get married on Sunday and then fired on Monday."

Organizers remembered some of the earliest gay rights marches, including a gathering of about 40 protesters in the same location on July 5, 1965 calling for equality.

They called that a bold and courageous act by the standards of the day, when homosexuals could be arrested for intimate acts even in the privacy of their own homes.

Pit spitting

A 15-year-old girl won the women's division of the 42nd annual cherry spitting contest in Eau Claire, Michigan, by sending a pit farther than anyone else: 49 1/4 feet.

"I just took a deep breath and pushed hard," said Megan Ankrapp of Buchanan. "I was shocked."

Kevin Bartz won the championship with a spit of 48 feet and 8 inches. Ankrapp was not allowed to participate in the overall championship round because her earlier spits were too short to qualify.

Bartz said he was excited to finally beat Brian Krause, the 2014 champ, but then realized a teenager had sent a pit farther than he did.

"I look up and say, `Wait a minute. One of the girls beat me,'" said Bartz, 48. "It's not quite as exciting."

New citizens sworn in

Naturalization ceremonies big and small were held across the U.S.

The director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' Baltimore district administered the oath of allegiance to 40 people from 27 countries during a ceremony at The Engineers Club in Baltimore.

In Plymouth, Vermont, 20 people became U.S. citizens at the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site. The great-granddaughter of President and Mrs. Coolidge sang the national anthem.

Officials say over 4,000 new citizens were welcomed in more than 50 naturalization ceremonies across the country from July 1 through July 4.

Presidential hopefuls

Parades across Iowa and New Hampshire were clear reminders of the race for the White House: Red balloons promoting "Jeb! 2016," a tractor draped in a Rick Perry banner and dutiful volunteers holding signs and chanting.

Former Govs. Jeb Bush of Florida, Rick Perry of Texas and Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island as well as South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham worked the crowd in Amherst, while Hillary Rodham Clinton marched in a parade in New Hampshire's North Country. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio spent the holiday in New Hampshire's Lakes Region, as Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley met voters in Iowa.

A historic candy drop

A pilot who delivered candy to children in Berlin at the end of World War II parachuted sweets down to Orem, Utah, to celebrate Independence Day.

Gail Halvorsen, 94, also known as the "Candy Bomber," dropped 1,000 chocolate bars attached to tiny parachutes at Scera Park on Friday. He flew over the area three times before releasing the cargo into the hands of the children below.

Deb Jackson, co-chair of the event, estimated more than 50,000 people stood in 100-degree Fahrenheit temperatures to watch the 4 p.m. drop.

Halvorsen flew in a fixed-wing bomber from World War II with two escort planes attending, the Daily Herald of Provo reported.

Asia

Malaysian leader faces risk of criminal charge over funds

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak is facing the risk of a criminal charge over allegations that millions of dollars were funneled from an indebted state fund to his personal bank accounts, the first time the country's leader has faced criminal allegations.

The attorney general confirmed late Saturday he has received documents from an official investigation that made the link between Najib and the investment fund 1MDB. The existence of the documents was first reported by the Asian Wall Street Journal on Friday, showing some $700 million were wired from entities linked to the fund into Najib's accounts.

The documents sent to the attorney general pave the way for possible criminal charges.

It is also one of the worst political crisis for Najib, who has come under increasing criticism over his leadership. He has denied taking any money for personal gains.

"It's damning and disastrous for Najib," said Wan Saiful Wan Jan, who heads the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs think-tank.

AP

In this May 14, 2015 photo, Malaysians pass by a billboard for the Tun Razak Exchange, a development by state investment fund 1 Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

"This is really unchartered territory in Malaysian politics. For the first time ever, we are seeing a prime minister facing the possibility of a criminal charge," he said.

1MDB ,set up by Najib in 2009 to develop new industries, has accumulated 42 million ringgits ($11.6 million) in debt after its energy ventures abroad faltered. Critics, led by former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, have voiced concerns about 1MDB's massive debt and alleged lack of transparency.

The Wall Street Journal report said five deposits were made into Najib's accounts and the two largest transactions, worth $620 million and $61 million, were done in March 2013 ahead of general elections.

Fatal fire on Japan's airtight bullet train exposes lapses

TOKYO (AP)—A fatal fire on Japan's bullet train, started by a man who self-immolated this week, has revealed blind spots in a system renowned for its speed, punctuality and safety record.

Riding the Shinkansen feels like being in an airplane: at 300 kilometers (186 miles) per hour, it goes so fast in an out of tunnels that it must be airtight. Windows cannot be opened, and doors open only when the train fully stops, which takes several minutes.

Yet, in a country with strict gun control and low crime rate, security is lax—no identification or baggage checks required.

On Tuesday, Haruo Hayashizaki, a 71-year-old retiree, poured a flammable liquid over himself and lit it while riding a bullet train heading to Osaka from Tokyo. He died on the spot, and smoke filled the coach, choking a female passenger to death.

It was the first fire in the train's 50-year history. Experts say it was a wake-up call to something more disastrous, potentially a terrorist attack, and it's time to step up risk management ahead of the G-7 summit in Japan next year and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"The incident took advantage of the blind spots on the Shinkansen," said Seiji Abe, an expert on transportation safety at Kansai University in Osaka. "Fire caused by malicious intentions was not anticipated, and provisions to keep out hazardous materials were not in place."

So far, authorities haven't found any mishandling by the train operator, but the initial investigation and witness accounts have raised questions, including how quickly crew members grasped the situation and whether there should be a better way to clear smoke from the hermetically sealed cars.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan stands up to China with World War II military parade

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan marched out thousands of troops and displayed its most modern military hardware Saturday to spotlight an old but often forgotten claim that its forces, not the Chinese Communists, led the campaign that routed imperial Japan from China 70 years ago. The military staged an unusually large two-hour parade of homegrown missiles, Apache attack helicopters and a mountain bike team designed for stealth missions, followed by awards for aged World War II veterans in their attire from the 1940s. China and Taiwan split during civil war in 1949 and today's China—more militarily and economically powerful than Taiwan—claims that the Chinese Communists had directed the resistance against the Japanese. Mainland officials have argued that the Communists' advice and fighting skills were crucial to the victory.

Murder complaints filed over capsized Philippine ferry

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police in a central Philippine city said Saturday that they have filed murder complaints against the owner and the crew of a ferry that capsized shortly after pulling out of port, leaving more than 50 people dead. The complaints were filed with the local prosecutor late Friday as the M/B *Kim Nirvana* was lifted from the water, said Ormoc City police Senior Inspector Rio Tan. The prosecutor will review the complaints to determine whether there is enough evidence to file charges. At least 59 people died and 145 survived Thursday's disaster, including all 18 crew members, said regional coast guard commander Capt. Pedro Tinampay.

Shoe factory collapses in eastern China, killing 9 people

BEIJING (AP)—A shoe factory collapsed in eastern China during a weekend shift, killing at least nine people and injuring more than 30, officials said Sunday. Nine people escaped the collapse Saturday afternoon in the Zhejiang province city of Wenling. Rescuers pulled 42 people from the rubble and sent them to a hospital where nine of them died, the Wenling city government said on its microblog. The cause of the accident was still under investigation.

World

On native turf, Pope Francis touches on cherished issues

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—History's first Latin American pope returns to Spanish-speaking South America for the first time on Sunday, bringing a message of solidarity with the region's poor, who are expected to turn out in droves to welcome their native son home.

"The pope of the poor" chose to visit Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay specifically because they are among the poorest and most marginal nations of a region that claims 40 percent of the world's Catholics. He's skipping his homeland of Argentina, at least partly to avoid papal entanglement in this year's presidential election.

The trip starts in Ecuador, where falling world prices for oil and minerals threaten to fray the social safety net woven by President Rafael Correa, who has been buffeted for nearly a month by the most serious anti-government street protests of his more than eight years in power.

Francis is likely to raise environmental concerns with Correa and the leader of Bolivia—who have promoted mining and oil drilling in wilderness areas—given his recent encyclical on the need to protect nature and the poor who suffer most when it is exploited.

In that document, Francis called for a new development model that rejects today's profit-at-all cost mentality in favor of a Christian view of economic progress that respects human rights, safeguards the planet and involves all sectors of society, the poor and marginalized included.

In a video message on the eve of his departure, Francis said he wanted to bring a message of hope and joy to all "especially the neediest, the elderly, the sick, those in prison and the poor and all those who are victims of this `throwaway culture.'"

Francis' stops include a violent Bolivian prison, a flood-prone Paraguayan shantytown and a meeting with Bolivian trash pickers, the sort of people he ministered to in the slums of Buenos Aires as archbishop.

Crowds are expected to be huge. While the countries themselves are tiny compared to regional powerhouses like Brazil and Argentina, they are fervently Catholic: 79 percent of the population is Catholic in Ecuador, 77 percent in Bolivia and a whopping 89 percent in Paraguay, according to the Pew Research Center.

"You can imagine what this embrace of love will be, this devotion of our people toward the pope, the universal pastor who comes from Latin America," said Guzman Carriquiri, the No. 2 of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America and a top papal adviser.

The Vatican says it expects more than 1 million people to turn out for Francis' major public Masses in each country, and organizers have scheduled plenty of time for the pope to meander through the throngs expected to line his motorcade route.

Tunisia imposes state of emergency after deadly beach attack

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Tunisia's president declared a state of emergency on Saturday in response to a second deadly attack on foreigners in three months, saying the country is "not safe" and risks collapse from further extremist attacks.

With a nationwide televised address, President Beji Caid Essebsi officially reintroduced urgent security measures for Tunisia that had been lifted in March 2014.

Essebsi said an "exceptional situation required exceptional measures" but pledged to respect freedom of expression.

The decision came just over a week after a gunman at the popular beach resort of Sousse attacked foreign tourists, killing 38 people. Essebsi said the state of emergency would last 30 days.

"Tunisia faces a very serious danger and it should take any possible measures to maintain security and safety," he said. "As we see in other countries, if attacks like Sousse happen again, the country will collapse."

Essebsi blamed the poor security in Libya for Tunisia's problems, and the lack of international resolve in targeting the Islamic State group throughout the region. He said Tunisia specifically had been a target of the extremist group because it had a functioning, secular democracy.

The gunman behind the beach attack was killed by police and IS later claimed responsibility for the massacre, a blow to Tunisia's tourism industry. Thirty of the 38 dead in the attack were British tourists.

In March, gunmen killed 22 people, again mostly tourists, at The National Bardo Museum outside Tunis.

Tunisia's government has promised new laws to increase police powers and provide for harsher penalties for terrorism convictions. Immediately after the beach attack, the prime minister pledged to post armed guards at tourist sites and close mosques outside government control.

The Sousse governor and security chiefs were fired as was a top official in the gunman's hometown, according to the prime minister's office.

Draft accords of sanctions relief at Iran nuke talks in hand

VIENNA (AP)—World powers and Iran have drawn up a draft document on the pace and timing of sanctions relief for the Islamic republic in exchange for curbs on Iran's nuclear program, advancing on one of the most contentious issues at their negotiations, diplomats told The Associated Press on Saturday.

Written by technical experts, the document still must be approved by senior officials of the seven nations at the table, including U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and the foreign ministers of the five other countries expected to join Kerry and Zarif in Vienna this weekend for a push to meet a July 7 deadline.

The development indicated the sides were moving closer to a comprehensive accord that would set a decade of restrictions on Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for tens of billions of dollars in economic benefits for the Iranians.

Officials had described sanctions relief as one of the thorniest disagreements between Iran and the United States, which has led the campaign of international pressure against Iran's economy. The U.S. and much of the world fears Iran's enrichment of uranium and other activity could be designed to make nuclear weapons; Iran says its program is meant only to generate power and for other peaceful purposes.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly on this past week's confidential negotiations, said the sanctions annex was completed this week by experts from Iran and the six world powers in the negotiations: the United States, Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia. They did not provide details of the agreement.

Health & Fitness

Could insulin pills prevent diabetes? Big study seeks answer

AP

In this photo taken Wednesday, May 13, 2015, Hayden Murphy, 13, sits for a photo with his medicine at his home in Plainfield, Ill.

CHICAGO (AP)—For nearly a century, insulin has been a life-saving diabetes treatment. Now scientists are testing a tantalizing question: What if pills containing the same medicine patients inject every day could also prevent the disease?

Thirteen-year-old Hayden Murphy of Plainfield, Illinois, is helping researchers determine if the strategy works for Type 1 diabetes, the kind that is usually diagnosed in childhood. If it does, he might be able to avoid the lifetime burdens facing his 5-year-old brother, Weston. They includes countless finger pricks and blood sugar checks, and avoiding playing too hard or eating too little, which both can cause dangerous blood sugar fluctuations.

Hayden Murphy is among more than 400 children and adults participating in U.S. government-funded international research investigating whether experimental insulin capsules can prevent or at least delay Type 1 diabetes. Hospitals in the United States and eight other countries are involved and recruitment is ongoing. To enroll, participants must first get bad news: results of a blood test showing their chances for developing the disease are high.

"When I got the news, I was devastated," Hayden said. He knows it means his life could change in an instant.

"He has the daily reminders. He sees what his brother goes through," said the boys' mom, Myra Murphy.

So now Hayden Murphy swallows a small white capsule daily and has his blood checked periodically for signs of diabetes.

"I hope it doesn't come to me, and I really didn't want it to come to him," Hayden said.

A small, preliminary study by different researchers, published recently in the Journal of the American Medical Association, suggests the approach might work. Children who took insulin pills showed immune system changes that the researchers said might help prevent diabetes. The study was too small and didn't last long enough to know for sure.

The ongoing larger study is more rigorous, randomly assigning participants to get experimental insulin capsules or dummy pills, and should provide a clearer answer.

"Does it prevent indefinitely? Does it slow it down, does it delay diabetes? That also would be a pretty big win," said Dr. Louis Philipson, a University of Chicago diabetes specialist involved in the study.

About 1.25 million Americans have Type 1 diabetes. Type 2 disease is more common, affecting nearly 30 million nationwide and most of the more than 300 million worldwide with diabetes. Besides short-term complications from poorly controlled blood sugar, both types raise long-term risks for damage to the kidneys, heart and eyes.

Both types are increasing and for Type 2, experts think that's because of rising obesity and inactivity. But the upward trend in Type 1 diabetes, increasing worldwide by at least 3 percent each year, is more perplexing.

"We know so very little about the exact mechanisms that cause Type 1 diabetes," which complicates efforts to prevent it, said Dr. Desmond Schatz, the study's chair and medical director of the University of Florida Diabetes Center.

"For the most part, it's really shooting an arrow into a field and hoping one of the arrows hits a target," Schatz said.

In Type 1 diabetes, the pancreas stops making insulin, a blood sugar-regulating hormone that helps the body convert sugar in food into energy. Treatment is lifetime replacement insulin, usually via injections or a small pump. In Type 2, the body can't make proper use of insulin. It can sometimes be treated with a healthy diet and exercise.

Genes are thought to increase risks for Type 1 diabetes. Viruses and other infections are among factors suggested as possible triggers the disease, which causes the body's immune system to attack insulin-producing cells.

A diet that mimics fasting is good for you, even if followed only for a few days

By ERYN BROWN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—For years, people have tried going on extremely low-calorie diets, hoping to stave off illness and delay the effects of aging.

It's an approach that is based on science showing that limiting proteins and sugars seems to impede processes in the body that lead to diabetes and even cancers. But it's also a tough road that can sap dieters' patience and strength, said University of Southern California aging researcher Valter Longo, who recently led a study searching for a better way to get the benefits of fasting without quite so much pain.

"We wanted to know, what if you let people eat normally, but then once every few weeks you fool the system into thinking it was starving?" he said.

The results of Longo's experiment, published last week in the journal Cell Metabolism, showed that the fasting-mimicking plan did indeed work.

The research was conducted in three parts: in yeast, in mice and in people.

When Longo's team alternated between offering yeast a nutrient medium and fasting them, they lived longer. Middle-aged mice that were fed a diet that mimicked fasting lived longer and had less fat, fewer cancers, less bone density loss and other positive effects.

To begin to understand the effects of a fasting-like diet on people, the team organized a pilot randomized clinical trial involving 38 healthy subjects ages 18 to 70. Half of the group were randomized into a control group that ate normally, returning for testing at the end of the three-month study.

The other half went through three five-day-long monthly cycles of the fasting-mimicking diet. Their food — all plant-based, with low carbohydrates, low protein and high levels of healthy fat — was delivered to them in a box and included powdered soups, nut bars and chips. It provided about 1,090 calories on the first day and about 725 calories on Days 2 through 5.

"We try to make it as close as possible to something that looks like normal food," Longo said, adding that 95 percent of the dieters stuck with the plan — a success rate that surprised the researchers.

"I think people noticed a lot of results, and that motivated them to come back," he said.

The test subjects who ate the special diet experienced drops in their fasting blood glucose levels and in factors associated with cancer and cardiovascular risk. In mice, the researchers saw increased numbers of stem cells, suggesting that starvation-like conditions killed off old, weaker cells and allowed younger, refreshed cells to emerge.

"Everything is getting a little younger and it goes back to working much better," Longo said.

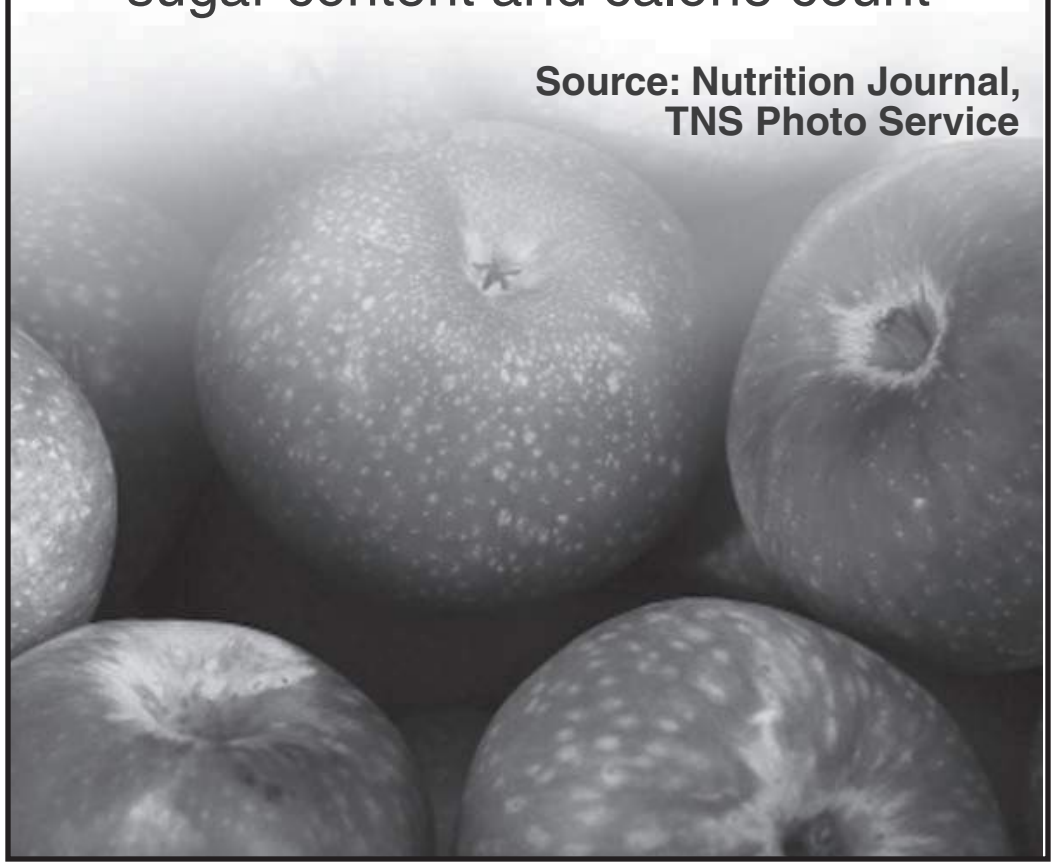
Healthy Living

Whole fruit or juice?

With their high fiber content and beneficial nutrients, whole apples are the healthier choice.

What about the juice?

While apple juice is better for you than soda or some other drink alternatives, it does have a high sugar content and calorie count



Source: Nutrition Journal, TNS Photo Service

Life & Style

Matt Stonie tops Joey Chestnut in hot dog eating contest

NEW YORK (AP)—Matt Stonie shocked the competitive eating world Saturday by upsetting Joey "Jaws" Chestnut at the Fourth of July hot dog eating contest at Nathan's Famous in Coney Island, thwarting Chestnut's bid for a ninth straight victory.

Stonie, 23, who finished second last year, downed 62 hot dogs and buns, beating Chestnut by two. Both are from San Jose, California.

As thousands of spectators observed the eaters on an elevated stage, the next closest competitor ate 35 hot dogs.

"I trained hard for this. This is actually amazing," Stonie told ESPN, which broadcast the competition live like the major sporting event its biggest fans say it has become.

Afterward, Stonie, holding his fist in the air in victory, said he came into the competition confident and prepared in his quest for the $10,000 prize and the coveted mustard yellow winner's championship belt.

AP

Matt Stonie gestures after winning Nathan's Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dog Eating Contest men's competition Saturday July 4, 2015 in the Coney Island section in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

"We don't just go up there and eat hot dogs. We practice for this. We prepare our bodies," Stonie said. "It was a tough contest. Joey brings it all. I had to push really hard to beat him. But I feel great."

Stonie had defeated Chestnut in the past year in competitions featuring Twinkies, poutine, pumpkin pie and gyros.

Chestnut, smiling in defeat, said he was slow and couldn't catch Stonie, who entered the match weighing just 125 pounds to Chestnut's 230 pounds.

"I've been looking for competition for a long time and I finally have it," he said, vowing to return next year. "He made me hungry."

Chestnut, 31, had built himself into a champ with his string of victories, which included setting the record in 2013 by swallowing 69 franks. He twice reached 68 but last year had fallen off to 61.

After his victory last year, he dropped to one knee and proposed to his longtime girlfriend. They have since broken up.

Early in the contest, Chestnut seemed to have a slight edge but Stonie moved ahead by half a hot dog after 3 minutes and never looked back.

Thousands truckin' to Chicago for final Grateful Dead shows

CHICAGO (AP)—The Grateful Dead is closing the lid on its storied half-century of concerts this weekend in Chicago, where a museum has captured the band's prankster heart by displaying its artifacts, skeletons-and-roses iconography included, in the shadow of a world-famous dinosaur.

Soldier Field, which was the last place legendary guitarist Jerry Garcia played with the band before his death in 1995, is hosting the final three shows of the short "Fare Thee Well" tour in what the remaining core members—rhythm guitarist Bob Weir, bassist Phil Lesh and percussionists Mickey Hart and Bill Kreutzmann—say will be the last.

The lakefront stadium, just south of the Field Museum and the bones of Sue the Tyrannosaurus rex, will be a sea of tie-dyed shirts, and the sounds of bootleg concert tapes will fill the air in the parking lots. Certainly, there'll be young people who never saw Garcia play among the tens of thousands of fans, but they'll likely be outnumbered Deadheads who display more than a touch of grey.

AP

In this Tuesday, June 30, 2015, photo, Alex Kovacs, from Lafayette, Ind., walks around a display of decorative mailing envelopes, sent to the Grateful Dead's ticketing agent, by a fans seeking to purchase tickets to a future concert, at the Field Museum in Chicago.

Many of those who followed the band around decades ago—and can recite the exact number of shows they've seen as easily as they can their Social Security numbers—have become lawyers, accountants and, in at least one case, a member of the U.S. Senate.

"Yes, my wife and I are coming for the Saturday and Sunday shows," said former comedian and avowed Deadhead Al Franken, who now represents Minnesota in Washington. "To me they represent a big part of my life, they are a touchstone for a long time and they still are."

The Democrat began seeing the Dead about the time he was getting out of college in the early 1970s, and later became friends with Garcia and other members of the band when they appeared on "Saturday Night Live," on which Franken was a cast member.

"I still listen to them pretty much every chance I get," he said.

'Inside Out' celebrates edge over 'Magic Mike,' 'Terminator'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Even with the flashy competition of Terminators and male strippers, the little feelings inside a young girl's head proved to be more of a draw for moviegoers going into the holiday weekend.

Disney and Pixar's "Inside Out" earned a chart-topping $7.7 million on Thursday, according to Rentrak estimates. The animated family film has grossed $216.1 million to date and could become the first film since "Argo" to climb to No. 1 during its third weekend in release.

"Inside Out" had been trailing the gargantuan grosses of "Jurassic World" for two weeks, but might have the edge finally. Universal's record-busting dino film brought in $6.9 million Thursday, bringing its domestic total to $527.2 million.

New openers "Terminator Genisys" and "Magic Mike XXL" held the third and fourth spots, respectively with $6.5 million and $5.7 million.

But, this narrow advantage doesn't mean much for "Terminator's" bottom line, which looks destined for disappointment. The Skydance-Paramount movie was produced for an estimated $155 million. The "Magic Mike" sequel, meanwhile, only cost around $15 million.

With daily grosses this close, the long holiday weekend is still anyone's game.

While no film will be reaching the $80 million-plus heights of 2013's "Despicable Me 2," 2004's "Spider-Man 2" or 2011's "Transformers: Dark of the Moon," this weekend is solid improvement over last year's disastrous Fourth of July weekend.

The 2014 Independence Day box office was the weakest in decades thanks in part to lackluster options, like "Tammy," and "Earth to Echo," bad weather and the competition of the World Cup.

AP

In this file image released by Disney-Pixar, characters, from left, Anger, voiced by Lewis Black, Disgust, voiced by Mindy Kaling, Joy, voiced by Amy Poehler, Fear, voiced by Bill Hader, and Sadness, voiced by Phyllis Smith appear in a scene from "Inside Out."

Diana Douglas, 1st wife of Kirk Douglas, dies at 92

AP

In this Sept. 9, 1947 file photo, actors Kirk and Diana Douglas pose with their second son, Joel, for his first portrait in the Hollywood district of Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Diana Douglas, the first wife of Kirk Douglas and mother of Michael Douglas, died Saturday in Los Angeles. She was 92.

Douglas died of cancer at a motion picture industry retirement home in the Woodland Hills neighborhood, according to an obituary from Michael Douglas's production company, Furthur Films. It cited Diana Douglas's husband of fifteen years, Donald A. Webster of Washington, D.C.

Born Diana Love Dill in Bermuda, where her family had lived for centuries and her father was the attorney general, Douglas later moved to New York and met Kirk Douglas while they were both studying at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

She later went to California on a $200-a-week contract with Warner Bros. against Douglas's advice that she try for Broadway instead.

She went on to have a six-decade as an actress and model, appearing in dozens of movies and television episodes, including the 1987 Steve Martin film "Planes, Trains and Automobiles" and the TV shows "ER" and "The West Wing."

She also did stage roles, including some on Broadway.

In May 1943, Douglas appeared on the cover of Life magazine, modeling spring fashions.

"Kirk Douglas, by then serving in the Navy during World War II, saw her on the cover and told his shipmates he would marry her," according to the obituary.

They wed that November and went on the have two sons, Michael and Joel, before divorcing in 1951.

"We had brought to marriage such different concepts of what it constituted, what was expected due," she wrote in her memoir, "In the Wings and Beyond."

The two remained on amicable terms. She even appeared with him in several movies, including her last film, 2003's "It Runs in the Family," which also starred Michael Douglas and one of her grandsons, Cameron.

Douglas was also married to actor Bill Darrid from 1956 until his death in 1992.

Leonard Nimoy's son makes Spock documentary to honor father

AP

In this June 29, 2015 photo, lawyer-turned-director Adam Nimoy, son of the late Star Trek actor Leonard Nimoy, poses for a portrait in New York to promote his documentary about his father, "For the Love of Spock."

NEW YORK (AP)—Adam Nimoy has found a way to spend countless hours with his late father Leonard Nimoy: He's creating a documentary for the actor who played Spock on "Star Trek."

Nimoy said the "Spockumentary" funded through a Kickstarter campaign that raised over $600,000 will focus on the pop icon and his legacy. The TV director and film professor said it would explore his father's life onscreen and off-screen.

"For the Love of Spock" began as a project for the father and son duo before Leonard's Nimoy's death in February at age 83. Nimoy said his father wanted to keep it Spock-centric, but once he passed he knew he had to include more about his father.

"I think it's going to be a nice kind of way just to work through all these feelings I am having and to move on with my own life," Nimoy said.

Nimoy turned to crowdfunding because he wasn't getting the financial support he expected from studios. The documentary will include clips from the "Star Trek" films and TV shows, Nimoy's other works and interviews from fans and family as well as William Shatner who played Capt. James T. Kirk; J.J. Abrams who directed the 2009 film reboot, and celebrity fans like Seth McFarlane. Zachary Quinto, who plays Spock in the new movie franchise, will narrate the film.

"Dad passed the torch to Zachary. He is the anointed one to carry on the tradition of Mr. Spock and all that entails," Nimoy said. "He's now such a part of the tradition that it just seems like he would be a major force to really come up with a dynamic product."

This will be Nimoy's second project with his dad: He previously produced "Leonard Nimoy's Boston," a documentary about his father's childhood in Boston. His sister Julie Nimoy announced in April she was partnering with her fiancé to create a film on COPD, the disease that killed her father.

Billy Joel weds girlfriend during Fourth of July party

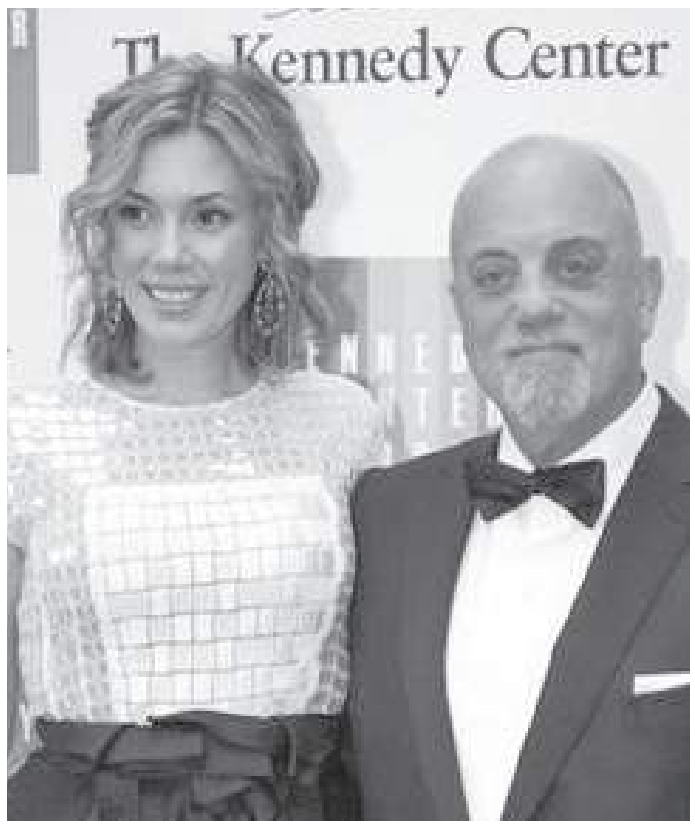
NEW YORK (AP)—Billy Joel married girlfriend Alexis Roderick in a surprise ceremony at the couple's annual Fourth of July party.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo presided over Saturday's nuptials at Joel's Long Island estate, the singer's spokeswoman Claire Mercuri said. The small group of family and friends at the party didn't know the couple planned to exchange vows. Among those in attendance were Alexa Ray Joel, his daughter with his second wife, model Christie Brinkley, and actor Kevin James.

People magazine first reported the wedding.

Joel, 66, and Roderick, 34, have been dating since 2009 and are expecting their first child. This is his fourth marriage.

Joel is currently on tour. On Wednesday, he set a record for most performances by a single artist at Madison Square Garden with his 65th show, besting Elton John.



AP

In this Dec. 7, 2013 file photo, Kennedy Center Honoree Billy Joel,right, and Alexis Roderick arrive at the Kennedy Center Honors gala dinner in Washington.

Police identify motel intruder shot by ex-CNN reporter

AP

In this photo taken June 6, 2015, former CNN Headline News anchor Lynne Russell poses for a photo during the CNN 35th anniversary reunion in Atlanta.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—The man fatally shot by a former CNN reporter at an Albuquerque motel had fled parole in Tennessee, police said.

Tomorio Walton had absconded from parole out of Memphis, and it wasn't clear how long he had been in New Mexico, Albuquerque Police Department spokesman Tanner Tixier (tih-SHAY) said late Thursday.

Chuck de Caro and his wife, Lynne Russell, were in their room when Walton, 27, allegedly tried to rob them, authorities said.

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press, Russell said her husband was shot three times and was recovering at a hospital.

"He's in a lot of pain," she said. "He took three shots, including a couple to the abdomen. But magically, his organs were not affected."

"He's my hero. He saved my life," Russell added.

Russell, a former CNN anchor, said the couple was four days into a trip when they stopped at an Albuquerque Motel 6 on Tuesday night. They also had their dog. She said an armed man was at their door when she returned from getting something from their car.

"He pushed me into the room, and that's when my husband came out of the shower and saw what was happening," Russell told KOB-TV. "We tried to calm him, confuse him and do everything we could do to just come out of it in one piece."

Panama too drops out of Trump's Miss Universe pageant

PANAMA CITY (AP)—Panama is joining several other Latin American nations in dropping out of the Miss Universe pageant in protest over Donald Trump's comments about immigrants.

The Miss Panama Organization and the Telemetro television channel say that this year they won't participate in or broadcast the Miss Universe contest partly owned by Trump.

They say the move is "a message of solidarity" to Mexicans offended by Trump's recent description of Mexican migrants as rapists and as people who bring drugs and crime to the United States.

Panama hosted the pageant in 1986 and 2003. Contest organizers and broadcasters in Costa Rica and Mexico also have pulled out of the event.

AP

In this July 6, 2011 file photo, U.S. tycoon Donald Trump attends the inauguration ceremony of the Trump Ocean Club International Hotel and Tower in Panama City.

Aftermath of son's affair puts grandmother in awkward spot

DEAR ABBY: My son had an affair that resulted in the birth of a child outside his marriage. The baby is extremely ill. My daughter-in-law has forgiven my son for his infidelity, and along with my two grandchildren, the little family is trying to rebuild and also do right by the baby.

The baby's mother stays in contact with us, although she is bitter and unpleasant to my son because he would not leave his family for her. However, she does keep us abreast of the baby's ongoing medical condition and needs. She confided to me that she got pregnant hoping that my son would finally leave his family.

My question is: How do I handle the relationship we have been forced into with the baby's mother? I need moral guidance, and some kind of etiquette guidance as well.

MORAL DILEMMA IN GEORGIA

DEAR M.D.: Don't blame the woman for feeling bitter. Her attempt to force your son into leaving his family failed, and she's now responsible for a very sick child. However, that doesn't change the fact that the baby is your grandchild, and she is your grandchild's mother. Treat her with kindness. Don't make things more difficult than they are by being hostile or judgmental. She's paying for this affair and will for many years to come. Remember always that she is manipulative, but treat her with compassion.

DEAR ABBY: I have a good friend I've known for 35 years. I was there for her during some rough times when we were both living paycheck-to-paycheck. Long story short, she's now married to a millionaire, and every time we get together, she insists on picking up the check.

Truthfully, I suppose it makes no sense for me to pay. I get that. Fifty dollars to me is like 50 cents to her. But the last thing I want is for her to feel I'm taking advantage or taking her for granted. Once I did grab the dinner tab, and she really let me have it!

Am I overthinking this? Should I just accept her good fortune and generosity?

VALUES FRIENDSHIP IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR VALUES FRIENDSHIP: It appears your friend also values friendship and appreciates how precious long-term relationships are. The two of you have a lot of shared history, and that kind of friendship isn't easy to replicate.

I do think you should accept her generosity, but I also think you should share your feelings with her so she can put your mind at ease. If it will make you feel less indebted, consider giving her an occasional gift. It doesn't have to be expensive, just thoughtful.

DEAR ABBY: What are the best words to use when you realize the psychotherapist you recently began therapy with isn't the right one for you? Should the words be said in person, over the phone in his voicemail or in writing? I want to get this over with as soon as possible and start looking for someone who may better suit me and my issues.

LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT ONE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR LOOKING: The words are, "This isn't working for me, and I won't be coming back." Be sure to tell the person why. Your message can be conveyed face-to-face, left as a phone message or be put in writing. The choice is yours.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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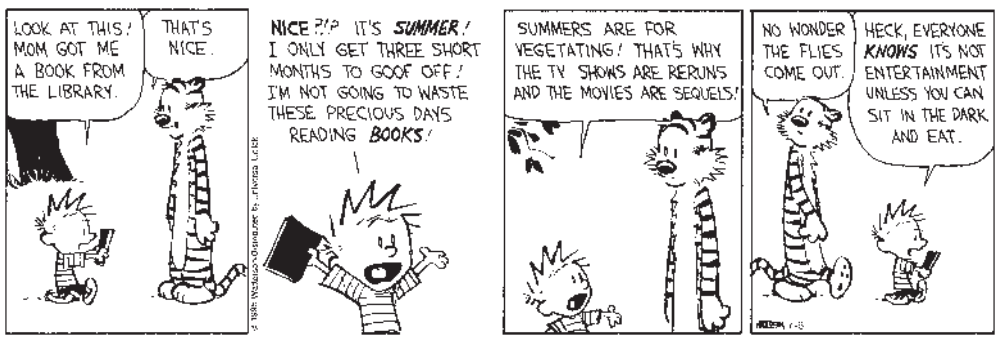
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK AT THIS! MOM GOT ME A BOOK FROM THE LIBRARY.
THAT'S NICE.
NICE?!? IT'S SUMMER! I ONLY GET THREE SHORT MONTHS TO GOOF OFF! I'M NOT GOING TO WASTE THESE PRECIOUS DAYS READING BOOKS!
SUMMERS ARE FOR VEGETATING! THAT'S WHY THE TV SHOWS ARE RERUNS AND THE MOVIES ARE SEQUELS!
NO WONDER THE FLIES COME OUT.
HECK, EVERYONE KNOWS IT'S NOT ENTERTAINMENT UNLESS YOU CAN SIT IN THE DARK AND EAT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

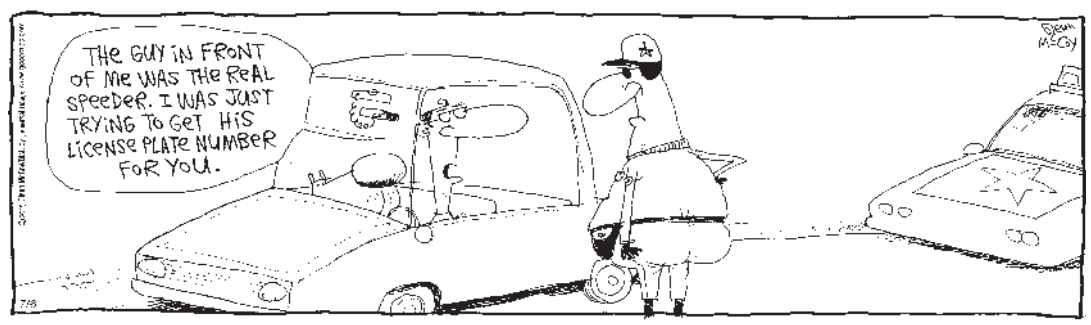
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HEY, ADAM. WHAT'S UP?
HEY, ANDRE. GOT A LOT OF WRITING TO DO...
SO I'M GONNA SET UP CAMP IN MY BOOTH OVER THERE.
I BROUGHT MY LAPTOP, MY PRINTER AND MY BACK SUPPORT PILLOW.
WOW. WHERE'S YOUR SLEEPING BAG?
I FIGURED IF I NEED A NAP I'LL JUST COVER MYSELF WITH NAPKINS.
SPECIAL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

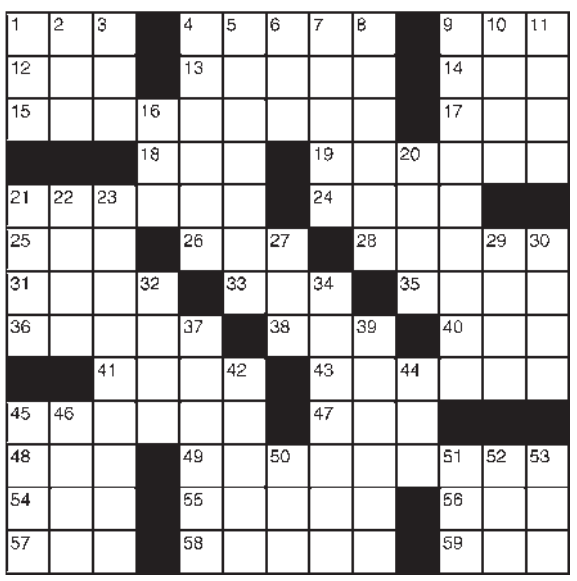
ACROSS
1 Ocean motion
4 Fulton's power source
9 Winter ailment
12 Writer Buscaglia
13 Cognizant
14 Fleur-de- —
15 They get jacked up
17 Exist
18 Umpire's call
19 Heart lines?
21 Vacationers' site
24 Fit of peevishness
25 Biblical verb ending
26 Unfamiliar
28 Hits with open hand
31 Ella's specialty
33 Shad product
35 Member of the brass (Abbr.)
36 Pitch
38 Tolkien creature
40 Greek vowel
41 Lima's country
43 Very funny joke (Sl.)
45 Scandinavian nation
47 Gorilla
48 Myrna of movies
49 Mountain road feature
54 Rd.
55 Diacritical mark
56 Doctor's charge
57 "Certainly"
58 Watched surreptitiously
59 — for (choose)

DOWN
1 Sprite
2 — canto
3 Squeezing snake
4 Ringed planet
5 Social network
6 Listener
7 Geometry answers
8 Quarks + anti-quarks
9 Levies based on a single percentage
10 Old Italian money
11 Works with
16 Additionally
20 Anger
21 Take ten
22 Engrave
23 What guards need
27 Travail
29 Townshend of The Who
30 Cicatrix
32 Pigeon- —
34 Dueling cry
37 Takes with force
39 Drew from
42 Square
44 Prepared
45 Dispatch
46 Made on a loom
50 Foreman foe
51 E.T.'s craft
52 Agent, for short
53 Trawler gear

Solution time: 27 mins.

M	A	T	■	A	H	A	■	T	R	C	A	T
A	B	A	■	B	E	T	■	R	A	T	I	O
C	A	R	■	C	A	R	B	U	N	C	L	E
A	S	S	■	S	P	I	R	E	■	■	■	■
W	H	I	Z	■	F	A	U	■	T	O	G	A
■	■	■	L	E	D	■	I	W	O	B	I	I
C	L	I	O	T	■	■	D	P	I	N	C	■
B	A	N	T	A	M	■	B	O	A	■	■	■
B	O	N	Y	■	E	D	O	■	Z	O	N	E
■	■	■	■	J	A	I	L	S	■	P	A	L
G	A	R	F	U	N	K	E	L	■	A	V	E
A	L	I	A	S	■	E	R	E	■	L	A	G
S	P	O	R	T	■	S	O	W	■	S	I	Y

Friday's answer 7-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tia and Tamera Mowry, 37; 50 Cent, 40; Sylvester Stallone, 69; Ned Beatty, 78.

Happy Birthday: Your imagination and creative flair will help you expand your ideas and learn how to use your skills more efficiently. What you can accomplish will surprise everyone, including you, if you stay focused and allow yourself the freedom to follow your instincts and pursue the direction that draws you the most. Explore different lifestyles. Your numbers are 7, 9, 16, 22, 25, 33, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take care of domestic chores, and you'll find a way to cut corners or identify a potentially worthwhile investment. A move to improved surroundings will impress others. Don't get angry. Be passionate and try to stay busy. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Get out, mingle and discuss your ideas with others. Don't be daunted by someone who opposes your personal plans. Take any criticism for what it's worth and keep moving forward. An unusual favor or offer will be presented to you. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make your surroundings more accommodating and visually stimulating, and you will accomplish more. Someone will play emotional mind games with you in order to get you to donate time or money. Proceed with caution. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A change in the way you feel about someone will result from the way you are treated. Let your intuition guide you when making a decision that could affect your reputation or professional status. Don't limit your chances to advance. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can deal with responsibilities concerning the medical, legal or financial challenges you face. Talk to experts regarding your options and make changes that will ease any stress or unnecessary burden you are carrying. Protect your assets. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Listen carefully to what others have to say. Size up whatever situations you face and find a unique way to solve problems that arise. Your concern will win favors and help you identify the help you need. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Be more aware of how others react and don't respond until you have all the facts. Arguments will develop if you aren't flexible, but don't give in to unreasonable demands. Romance is highlighted and will be a better option than engaging in a dispute. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take part in something that makes you happy or relaxes you and eases your stress, but don't let excess lead to a lack of funds, medical issues or poor decisions. A strict budget and health regimen will keep you on track. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Keep your private matters a secret. Spend more time doing the things you enjoy most with the people who can offer something in return. A positive change at home will lead to a new beginning. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't be afraid to do things differently. It will keep competition guessing if you are not predictable. Good fortune will result from making your moves with precision. A partnership based on equality will bring good results. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Promote what you have to offer. Expect someone you know or work with to give you a hard time if you are aggressive or pushy. Use finesse and your expertise to prove your point and get things done your way. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take action and follow through with your plans. The changes you bring about personally will help you get past someone's negativity or emotional manipulation. Get involved in activities with people who share your interests or are working toward the same goal. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, intuitive and shy. You are creative and inquisitive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2			8		3	4		6
		8					3	
	9			2	7			1
1			3			8		7
		7		8		9		
8		2			6			5
7			2	5			9	
	6					1		
9		3	1		8			4

Difficulty Level ★ 7/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

9	8	1	4	6	7	5	3	2
6	7	2	9	3	5	1	4	8
4	5	3	2	1	8	6	9	7
7	2	5	8	4	1	3	6	9
1	4	8	6	9	3	2	7	5
3	9	6	5	7	2	4	8	1
2	6	9	7	5	4	8	1	3
5	3	7	1	8	6	9	2	4
8	1	4	3	2	9	7	5	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FINNISH PANCAKES Solution: 7 letters

G	O	E	P	I	C	E	R	U	O	L	F	E	P	O
N	K	V	R	E	T	T	U	B	U	M	L	T	U	F
I	O	C	E	D	A	S	O	B	O	B	G	S	R	I
P	Y	C	I	N	L	A	A	M	B	R	S	O	Y	N
P	S	S	A	H	F	T	A	U	E	E	U	A	S	L
O	N	N	A	B	T	D	B	A	I	P	G	K	A	A
T	A	E	H	E	R	P	S	R	Y	I	A	L	L	N
B	C	L	R	A	O	E	R	O	O	H	R	I	T	D
G	E	I	C	U	C	E	G	U	O	W	M	Ⓜ	W	E
N	P	T	R	U	B	U	R	N	P	A	N	Ⓐ	A	S
I	K	A	A	W	R	S	I	D	H	B	R	Ⓙ	L	S
V	C	S	A	T	R	G	D	C	O	M	B	I	N	E
R	A	R	D	O	O	G	D	W	H	I	S	K	U	R
E	T	E	U	T	T	E	L	T	E	E	W	S	T	T
S	S	V	G	O	L	D	E	N	Y	E	L	R	A	B

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Bacon, Banana, Barley, Batter, Bowl, Brown, Bubble, Butter, Cardamom, Combine, Dessert, Easy, Eggs, Finland, Flat, Flour, Golden, Good, Grease, Griddle, Ham, Jam, Lettu, Milk, Oven, Pan, Pecans, Pour, Preheat, Recipe, Round, Salt, Sauce, Serving, Soak, Stack, Strawberries, Sugar, Sweet, Syrup, Taste, Thick, Topping, Versatile, Walnut, Warm, Whip, Whisk, Yogurt

Last Friday's Answer: Sons

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LaMarcus Aldridge chooses San Antonio Spurs

AP
LaMarcus Aldridge announced Saturday that he will sign with San Antonio and align with Tim Duncan and Kawhi Leonard to form what would figure to be among the league's most-formidable frontcourts.

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—LaMarcus Aldridge got the answers he needed from the San Antonio Spurs.

And the Spurs apparently got the answer they wanted.

Ending a frantic few days of courtship — and perhaps cementing the Spurs as the preseason favorites to win yet another NBA title—Aldridge announced Saturday that he will sign with San Antonio and align with Tim Duncan and Kawhi Leonard to form what would figure to be among the league's most-formidable frontcourts.

"I'm happy to say I'm going home to Texas and will be a Spur!!" Aldridge, a Dallas native, posted to his verified Twitter account. "I'm excited to join the team and be close to my family and friends."

The Spurs could not comment because of the league's offseason moratorium. Aldridge's representatives did not respond to requests for further comment beyond the tweet.

Aldridge, who spent his first nine seasons with the Portland Trail Blazers, will be eligible to sign his new deal Thursday.

"You could kind of tell once this whole thing started that he was trying to go somewhere else," Oklahoma City star Kevin Durant said during summer league play in Orlando, Florida. "In those decisions, you've just got to respect the guy for making a decision that was right for him. I know a lot of fans were probably upset in Portland in his decision, but at this point in your life and your career you've got to focus on you."

Aldridge met with several teams, all who were offering what the Spurs did: $80 million for four years.

The Los Angeles Lakers tried to woo him to play alongside Kobe Bryant. The Mavericks tried to sell him on coming home. Houston and Phoenix - which cleared a ton of cap space in an effort to get Aldridge - made pitches as well, and Pat Riley flew to Los Angeles to try to talk Aldridge into leaving the loaded Western Conference, coming East and joining the Miami Heat.

Some of the pitches were more appealing than others to Aldridge. But how the Spurs responded to his questions, most recently in their second meeting in Los Angeles on Friday - a lunchtime chat where they were spotted by fellow diners who snapped photos that quickly went viral - obviously won the battle.

"So happy he's going to be a Spur !!" Spurs guard Tony Parker tweeted.

It ushers in a new era for Portland. Damian Lillard got a new $120 million deal in recent days to stay with the Blazers, but Wesley Matthews (Dallas), Nic Batum (Charlotte), Arron Afflalo (New York) and Robin Lopez (New York) are heading elsewhere.

Now Aldridge, the second-leading scorer in Portland history behind only Clyde Drexler, is gone as well.

Blazers general manager Neil Olshey made several moves in preparation for Aldridge's departure, which seemed inevitable. He sent Batum to Charlotte for guard Gerald Henderson and second-year power forward Noah Vonleh, added big man Mason Plumlee in a draft-day trade with Brooklyn and signed versatile power forward Ed Davis to a three-year, $20 million deal.

"TP -DG- KL- LA- TD." That was part of a tweet that Leandro Ginobili, the brother of longtime Spurs' sixth man Manu Ginobili, wrote in Spanish.

No translation needed for that part.

■ Tony Parker, a four-time champion.

■ Danny Green, who is staying in San Antonio on a $45 million, four-year deal that looks like a discount.

-Kawhi Leonard, the 2014 NBA Finals MVP who agreed to a new deal moments after free agency started Wednesday night.

■ LaMarcus Aldridge.

■ Tim Duncan, a 15-time All-NBA player and five-time champion.

Good luck, Western Conference.

Aldridge averaged a career-high 23.4 points and also grabbed 10.2 rebounds per game while playing with an injured thumb last season for the Blazers. And last year he added a new dimension to his game - the 3-pointer, making 37 of them after making a total of 24 in his first eight seasons combined.

Aldridge was known to take two meetings with the Lakers and the Spurs, who brought Duncan, Leonard, Popovich and general manager R.C. Buford to the first one on Wednesday.

And now, based on the tweet, he picked the team that has won five championships since 1999. Yahoo Sports first reported the agreement.

The Spurs offered him a chance to play in his home state, a chance to join the most successful franchise of the modern era and presumably the right to take the torch from Duncan, who will return for a 19th season.

After winning the championship in 2014, the Spurs were eliminated in seven games by the Los Angeles Clippers in the first round of the playoffs this year. With their famed trio of Duncan, Parker and Ginobili aging, Buford and Popovich have deftly set up the long-term health of the franchise with several moves this summer.

And the Aldridge coup is part of a whirlwind few days. They started by signing Leonard, the reigning defensive player of the year, to a five-year contract worth around $90 million, then locked up Green, one of the league's best shooting guards.

Then they traded big man Tiago Splitter to the Atlanta Hawks to help clear some of the necessary salary cap room to land Aldridge, and it all paid off on Saturday.

Ginobili probably comes back now as well. Either way, offseason that started with the annual Spurs questions - "Is Pop coming back? Is Duncan coming back? - has resounding answers.

Yes, they are.

And a Spurs team that went to the NBA Finals in 2013 and 2014 clearly has eyes on getting back there in 2016.

Jankovic tops 2-time Wimbledon champ Kvitova

LONDON (AP)—About an hour after flopping on her back and kicking her feet overhead to celebrate a stunning comeback against defending Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova, Jelena Jankovic still was giddy.

"I cannot stop smiling. ... I was very brave at the end. You know, here I am," she said through a giggle. "Unbelievable."

Jankovic kept using that word - "unbelievable" - as if trying to convince herself it were true that, despite never having much success on grass courts, she had put together a 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 victory Saturday over the No. 2-seeded Kvitova, who claimed the 2011 and 2014 titles at the All England Club.

"I was a little bit better at the end," the 28th-seeded Jankovic said. "I was a little bit lucky, as well."

The 30-year-old Serbian didn't come out of nowhere: She was the runner-up at the 2008 U.S. Open and finished that season ranked No. 1. But she has never been past the fourth round at Wimbledon, hadn't even made it that far since 2010, and won only one of five matches at the grass-court major over the last four years.

Kvitova, who led 4-2 in the second set, had a difficult time processing the match, too.

"I'm not really sure what happened out there," she said. "Suddenly, I was just missing (shots). So it was really unusual, probably, or weird. I can't really explain."

After the traditional middle Sunday off, play resumes Monday. The top half of the women's draw includes the most noteworthy matchup: Serena Williams vs. Venus Williams, meeting at a major for the first time since 2009. Those two, Maria Sharapova and Victoria Azarenka give that side of the bracket 34 Grand Slam titles.

And the eight women on the other half? They own zero major championships. That includes Jankovic, who meets No. 13 Agnieszka Radwanska next. Also Monday: No. 5 Caroline Wozniacki vs. No. 20 Garbine Muguruza, No. 15 Timea Bacsinszky vs. Monica Niculescu, and No. 21 Madison Keys vs. Olga Govortsova.

The men's bottom-half matchups, which were determined Saturday: seven-time champion Roger Federer against No. 20 Roberto Bautista Agut, 2013 champion Andy Murray against No. 23 Ivo Karlovic, No. 22 Viktor Troicki against Vasek Pospisil, and 2010 runner-up Tomas Berdych against No. 12 Gilles Simon, who beat fellow Frenchman No. 18 Gael Monfils in a match that was moved under the roof at Centre Court as darkness arrived.

Troicki ended the run of Dustin Brown, the qualifier from Germany who stunned Rafael Nadal in the second round. It marks the fourth year in a row that a man ranked No. 100 or worse beat Nadal at Wimbledon, then failed to advance further.

To the locals' delight, Murray beat No. 25 Andreas Seppi of Italy 6-2, 6-2, 1-6, 6-1. Early in the third set, Seppi got a visit from a trainer for his lower right leg, and ended up taking six games in a row. Murray received turnabout-is-fair-play treatment for a stiff right shoulder after falling behind 1-0 in the fourth set, and then took the last six games.

Kvitova lost three games through two matches, even apologizing to her parents for winning her opener in 35 minutes after they traveled from the Czech Republic to watch. But Kvitova ran out of steam against Jankovic, collecting only four winners in the final set after accumulating 20 before it.

"Not to be in the second week of (my) favorite tournament ... is really sad," Kvitova said. "I don't really know what I can say."

Jankovic, a real character, is rarely at a loss for words.

"I'm not old. I'm still young at heart," she said at her news conference. "I look pretty good, so why not?"

Jankovic also delighted in discussing her suddenly, and surprisingly, effective serve.

"Maybe my serve is not as fast as some of those big girls. But if I'm hitting my spots, it's quite effective," Jankovic said. "It was ... hard for Petra to attack and get some returns on it."

Jankovic won 71 percent of her service points, matched Kvitova's top speed of 109 mph (176 kph), and even wound up with 27 unreturned serves, including three aces.

That brought Jankovic's ace total for the week to 28, tied with Serena Williams and others for second-most in the tournament, behind only Keys' 42.

When that statistic was pointed out, Jankovic responded: "Is that for real?"

And with that, she chuckled as she leaned forward, covering her face with her left hand.

Harper uses patriotic themed bat, helps Nats win

WASHINGTON (AP)— Bryce Harper homered using a patriotic bat and the Washington Nationals beat the San Francisco Giants 9-3 on Saturday despite Stephen Strasburg exiting in the fourth inning with tightness in his left side.

The bat was painted blue with white stars. It was also illustrated with the American flag and a silhouette of the D.C. skyline, including the Capitol, the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument —all in navy blue and white.

Rain delayed the game's scheduled first pitch by 19 minutes. Washington's offense got to Madison Bumgarner (8-5) quickly with four consecutive hits including home runs by Michael A. Taylor and Harper.

Tanner Roark (4-3) earned the win after pitching 4 1/3 innings in relief of Strasburg.

Strasburg allowed one hit over 3 2/3 scoreless innings in his third start since coming off the disabled list. The right-hander previously missed nearly four weeks due to neck tightness.

AP
Washington Nationals' Bryce Harper (34) watches his two-run homer as he holds his Independence Day themed bat during the first inning of a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants at Nationals Park, Saturday, July 4, 2015, in Washington.

Cubs 7, Marlins 2

In Chicago, Kris Bryant hit two home runs, including a grand slam, to lead Chicago past Miami.

The multihomer game was the second for Bryant, who hit a two-run drive in the first inning and chased Marlins starter Jarred Cosart (1-4) with a grand slam in the second that made it 7-0.

Clayton Richard (1-0) sailed into the seventh inning in his first major league game since 2013, pitching the Cubs to their fourth victory in five games. Acquired from Pittsburgh in a trade Friday, he gave up two runs and eight hits with one walk in 6 1/3 innings.

Bryant's grand slam barely cleared the wall—but his first homer nearly left the park, landing in the top row of the left-field bleachers. He became the first Cubs player to hit two grand slams in his rookie season since Hall of Famer Billy Williams in 1961.

Tigers 8, Blue Jays 3

In Detroit, J.D. Martinez homered and David Price pitched seven strong innings as the Tigers beat the Blue Jays.

Before the game, the Tigers placed Miguel Cabrera on the disabled list for the first time in his 13-year career. Detroit has scored 15 runs in 14 innings since losing their best offensive player.

Alex Avila, making his first career start at first base in place of Cabrera, made the day's most spectacular defensive play, diving into the crowd far down the right-field line to retire Russell Martin in the fourth inning.

White Sox 3, Orioles 2

In Chicago, Avisail Garcia robbed Chris Davis of a tying home run with a leaping catch in the ninth inning, and the White Sox held off the Orioles.

J.B. Shuck put Chicago in front with a pinch-hit double in the eighth. Gordon Beckham scored the go-ahead run after he walked and advanced on a sacrifice bunt against Bud Norris (2-8), who was just demoted to the bullpen. Shuck doubled to right field off Darren O'Day.

David Robertson earned his 18th save in 22 opportunities -- with a huge assist from Garcia. The right fielder jumped and reached behind him over the wall to take a home run away from Davis with one out in the ninth.

Yankees 3, Rays 2

In New York, a ninth-inning throwing error by pitcher Brad Boxberger gave the Yankees their second straight walk-off win against the Rays.

Steven Souza Jr. tied the score in the top half with a two-run drive, the first home run off Dellin Betances (5-1) since Baltimore's Jonathan Schoop connected on Aug. 13.

James Loney singled leading off the inning against Betances, who blew a save for the second time in nine chances.

Souza was in an 0-for-26 slide that included 16 strikeouts before his fourth-inning single.

Red Sox 6, Astros 1

In Boston, Clay Buchholz pitched a six-hitter to win his fourth straight start, coming within one out of a shutout as the Red Sox rebounded from a tough loss against the Astros.

Mookie Betts drove in three runs and made a leaping catch in center field to help the Red Sox snap Houston's five-game winning streak. Buchholz (7-6) struck out eight and didn't walk a batter in his ninth career complete game. He is 3-0 with a 1.38 ERA in four starts against the Astros.

Luis Valbuena's RBI single with two outs in the ninth broke up the shutout.

Cardinals 2, Padres 1

In St. Louis, Jhonny Peralta broke an eighth-inning tie with a sacrifice fly, and the Cardinals beat the Padres to stop their longest losing streak of the season at four games.

Carlos Martinez threw 6 2/3 solid innings, and Seth Maness (3-0) got the win. Trevor Rosenthal closed for his 24th save in 25 opportunities, getting Matt Kemp to ground out with a runner on to end it.

Rosenthal had a 23-game scoreless string halted on Friday. San Diego won the first two games of the series, including a 2-1 victory Friday.

Athletics 2, Mariners 0

In Oakland, Rookie Kendall Graveman pitched seven innings to help hand Seattle ace Felix Hernandez his first loss in Oakland in nearly seven years, as the Athletics beat the Mariners.

The A's only scored twice off Hernandez (10-5) but peppered him for 10 hits -- the most he has allowed this season.

Hernandez, who struck out six and walked two, had gone 13 consecutive starts without losing at the Coliseum, matching the longest streak by an opposing pitcher. The loss—his first in Oakland since Sept. 19, 2008—was just his third in 21 career starts at this aging facility.

Pirates 1, Indians 0

In Pittsburgh, Jeff Locke pitched eight innings of two-hit ball, retiring his last 19 batters, and Neil Walker had an RBI single to lift the Pirates over the Indians.

Locke (5-4) allowed only second-inning singles by Yan Gomes and Giovanny Urshela as the Pirates ended Cleveland's five-game winning streak. The left-hander struck six, walked none and faced one batter more than the minimum in a game that took just 2 hours, 6 minutes.

Pittsburgh scored in the sixth against tough-luck loser Cody Anderson (1-1). Josh Harrison hit a leadoff double off the top of the center-field fence and came around on Walker's single.

Braves 9, Phillies 5

In Atlanta, Cameron Maybin had three hits, including a home run, and Atlanta beat Philadelphia with its best offensive showing in six weeks.

Kelly Johnson drove in three runs with two hits as the Braves scored their most runs since a 10-1 win over Milwaukee on May 21.

The Phillies, who have the majors' worst record (27-56), have lost six straight and nine of 10.

Darin Ruf hit a three-run homer for Philadelphia in the fifth. Odubel Herrera added an eighth-inning homer off David Aardsma.

Alex Wood (6-5) won but wasn't sharp. He allowed four runs, 10 hits and two walks in six innings. It was his first home win this season in six starts.

Dodgers 4, Mets 3

In Los Angeles, Zack Greinke scattered four hits over seven scoreless innings to outduel Matt Harvey, and Adrian Gonzalez hit a solo homer to help Los Angeles hold off New York.

Greinke (7-2) extended his scoreless innings streak to 27 2/3 while striking out four and walking none. He had a two-out single in the fourth inning, too.

J.P. Howell got the final out for his first save since June 12, 2011, against Tampa Bay.

Harvey (7-6) gave up seven hits and three runs in five innings.

The Mets closed to 4-2 with two outs in the eighth on Lucas Duda's RBI double and Wilmer Flores' RBI single after three Dodger relievers gave up a combined four hits.

Twins 5, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Joe Mauer hit a two-run homer in his first four-hit game in nearly two years to lead Minnesota.

Mauer, who is 13 for 28 against Royals starter Joe Blanton (2-2), homered with Brian Dozier aboard in a three-run first. Aaron Hicks' grounder scored Trevor Plouffe, who missed the cycle by a home run, with the other run.

Plouffe's tripled scored Mauer in the fifth to extend the lead to 4-0.

Glen Perkins pitched a flawless ninth for his major league-leading 27th save.

Twins starter Mike Pelfrey was chased after the Royals' first four hitters in the fifth reached base, the last on Lorenzo Cain's two-run single. Kendrys Morales drove in another run on a grounder to pull Kansas City to 4-3.

Brewers 7, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Jimmy Nelson won his career-best third consecutive start and Milwaukee used a six-run fifth inning to beat Cincinnati.

Six Brewers each drove in one run as Milwaukee extended its best winning streak in more than a year to seven games. Adam Lind homered and Jean Segura had three hits, helping suddenly potent Milwaukee score 47 runs in the first six games of the current road trip.

Nelson (6-8) overcame solo home runs by Marlon Byrd and Ivan De Jesus Jr. to last 5 2/3 innings. He gave up eight hits and three runs with one walk and five strikeouts.

Angels 13, Rangers 0

In Arlington, Hector Santiago pitched seven innings in another superb outing at Texas and C.J. Cron had three hits with a career-high six RBI to lead Los Angeles in the rout.

Santiago (5-4) scattered three hits and struck out three with one walk to get his first win in six starts since May 29. The left-hander is 5-0 with a 1.64 ERA in eight career games (six starts) at Texas.

Cron put the Angels ahead 1-0 when he had their fourth consecutive single to start the second inning against Wandy Rodriguez (5-4).

After a sac fly an inning later, Cron's three-run homer in the sixth made it 11-0 and he had an RBI double in the eighth. Cron had only eight RBI in his first 39 games this season.

Diamondbacks 7, Rockies 3

In Phoenix, Patrick Corbin threw five solid innings to get the win in his return 15 months after having Tommy John surgery and Arizona beat Colorado for the third straight time.

The 25-year-old left-hander, who underwent surgery on March 25, 2014, allowed two runs, scattered eight hits, struck out three and walked none. Making his first start since Sept. 27, 2013, Corbin threw 76 pitches, 56 for strikes.

A.J. Pollock doubled in two runs off Colorado's David Hale (2-4) to break a 2-2 tie in the fourth inning. Three consecutive bunts and a Rockies error led to three Arizona runs in the eighth.

Charlie Blackmon had an RBI double and D.J. LeMahieu a run-scoring single for the Rockies, who have lost four straight overall and seven of their last eight.

PNG culture shown in Pacific Games opening

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Papua New Guinea put on a dazzling opening show to officially start the two-week long XV Pacific Games that is being held in Port Moresby for the third time.

The newly refurbished 18,000-seater Sir John Guise Sports Complex at the capital's Wards strip erupted in a spectacular display of color and pageantry. Hundreds of dancers moved to the beat of traditional drums and other instruments used in various festivities in the culturally diverse island-nation.

Artistic director Airleke Ingram, a traditional drummer and music producer, said the theme of the opening ceremonies was a celebration of their rich cultural history and tied to the region's hiri trade, which is an important part of PNG's Motu people.

"It's a really key part of our culture. There are a lot of songs, dances, and tattoos. These things set our culture up, where we really got our spirit of generosity and the fair distribution of wealth," Ingram was quoted as saying at the Pacific Games website after an interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The opening number also showcased PNG's direction toward the future as it enjoys more than a decade of positive economic growth.

Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, officially declared he 15th edition of the Pacific Oceania region's quadrennial sporting event open.

"I would first like to congratulate everybody involved on a truly spectacular opening ceremony," Prince Andrew, who delivered the opening message in behalf of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, was quoted as saying at the Games' opening ceremony report.

"I wish everyone two successful weeks of sport. Good luck to all the competitors. Congratulations Port Moresby," Prince Andrew added.

Three-time Olympian Dika Loa Toua, who won the gold medal in last year's Glasgow Commonwealth Games in Scotland, lit the Games' cauldron, signaling the start of festivities and showing the life of the Motuans, PNG's native inhabitants that lived in the southern coastal area.

Competition began last Friday with pool plays in basketball, football, and touch rugby, and round-robin in table tennis. Triathlon, which has 12 medals in three events at stake, was held yesterday.

Triathletes Peter Prestley, Brad Ruszala, and Tony Stearns are part of the CNMI's 32-member delegation composed of 25 athletes and seven officials . Chef de Mission and Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael A. White led Team Marianas' delegation.

Besides the triathlon event, the Commonwealth will compete in seven other sports in the Pacific Games: athletics, beach volleyball, bodybuilding, golf, sailing, swimming, and and va'a (outrigger canoe).

American Samoa, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Guam, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Norfolk Island, Samoa, Palau, the Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tokelau, and Wallis and Futuna are the other competing countries aside from the CNMI and host Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea first hosted the Games, then known as South Pacific Games, in 1969 and again in 1991.

This year, the Pacific Games Council, for the first time, allowed Australia and New Zealand to join the competition on a trial basis and in only four sports: rugby sevens, sailing, taekwondo, and weightlifting.

Will history repeat itself? The US women hope not

AP

United States' Megan Rapinoe, right, and teammates train during FIFA Women's World Cup soccer practice in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on Saturday, July 4, 2015. The U.S. and Japan are scheduled to play in the final on Sunday in Vancouver.

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Abby Wambach remembers the date by heart: July 17, 2011. That was the day the United States lost to Japan in the Women's World Cup title match in Germany.

The Americans get a rematch on Sunday when the teams meet again in the final, this time in Canada. The U.S. women are favored, and there figures to be a mostly pro-American crowd making the short trip across the border to Vancouver's BC Place.

Wambach and the rest of her teammates say they aren't taking anything for granted. The United States, ranked No. 2 in the world, is seeking its third World Cup title, but first since 1999.

"We still have to win. We haven't won anything yet, and we know what that feels like from four years ago," Wambach said. "It's not a good feeling."

The United States is coming off an impressive 2-0 semifinal victory over Germany, the team that had unseated the Americans for the top spot in the world rankings. Criticized at times for a lack of offense, the U.S. has posted five straight shutouts.

"I think we have really good momentum. I think we have confidence as a group. But we need to raise our game as well," said midfielder Carli Lloyd, who leads the Americans with three goals. "This is the final, everything's on the line, there's no holding back. There's no reserving energy. It's full throttle."

Japan, ranked No. 4 in the world, has won each of its six matches during the monthlong tournament, relying on its steady tactical skill. It is trying for its second straight World Cup title.

"It's the final game, the last one, so there's no more than that and we should really cherish this moment that we are going to the final," Japan coach Norio Sasaki said. "But I would also like to have a game that would contribute to the development of football in the world."

Ol'Aces outgun foes in Lib Day caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces' guns were blazing last week as they won their first two games in the Open division of the 2015 Liberation Day Basketball Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Jack Lizama and Dan Barcinas sizzled for 20-plus points in the Ol'Aces' opening match to lift the team to a 91-81 victory over the Rollers last Thursday.

Barcinas led the Ol'Aces with his 28 points, 11 of them coming in the fourth quarter, as he anchored the team's recovery from a 59-63 deficit at the end of the third period. Lizama added 26 and also contributed in the fourth quarter, chipping in 8.

The Ol'Aces needed solid games from Lizama and Barcinas, as the team's main gunner Preston Basa was held to 8 points. Basa got off to a good start, knocking in two triples in the opening canto, but the Rollers clung to a one-point cushion after the first 10 minutes of play, thanks to Jethro Cruz's basket.

The Rollers hung on to the driver's seat in the next two periods, 42-39, and 63-59, with Cruz getting help from Dalton King, and C.J. Quon. However, the Rollers failed to keep their momentum in the payoff canto as Barcinas took over and saved the day for the Ol'Aces.

After an impressive first game, Barcinas came out flat in their second assignment last Friday, but the Ol'Aces still won against the Rebels, 99-91, with Lizama this time teaming up with Basa.

Basa exploded for 33 points, as he drilled one triple after another. Lizama backed him up, contributing 26 markers.

Basa made 11 shots from beyond the arc, capping his hot shooting night with five triples in the fourth quarter. He buried two of the Ol'Aces' first three triples, which also served as the team's first three field goals, for a 19-13 advantage.

The Ol'Aces added four more treys in the second—two coming from Jun Iguel and one each from Basa and Ezra Caro—but the Rebels stole the lead, 36-34, behind the 10 points of Mike Arciaga. The Ol'Aces then regained the upper hand, 63-62, as Basa converted two more shots from downtown and three of his teammates added one each. The Ol'Aces never relinquished the lead from thereon, as Basa continued to hit his target.

Meanwhile, the Rebels earned a 1-1 record in the first two days of the tournament after downing the Junior Ol'Aces, 95-89.

Y.J. Nakayama paced the Rebels with his 22 points, while three of his teammates also finished in twin digits for the easy win last Thursday. Prince Factor tallied 17, while Kelvin Fitial and Arciaga registered 16 and 15 markers, respectively.

Only four teams are entered in the Open division of the Lib Day caging after the withdrawal from Andersen Bombers, who could not make the trip to Saipan due to flight unavailability.

Action in the Open division along with games in the Junior category may resume tomorrow, weather permitting. Last Saturday and Sunday's matches were cancelled due to Typhoon Cham-Hom.

ASPAC

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also call off the match as Saipan and Tinian were already in typhoon condition one.

Defending Senior League champion CNMI was scheduled to play Guam at 11am yesterday, while Chinese-Taipei was slated to face Guam in the Big League finals. Both games were also cancelled.

Ada said Little League headquarters in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania automatically awarded the World Series berths to the CNMI (Senior in Bangor, Maine) and Chinese Taipei (Junior in Taylor, Michigan and Big in Easley, South Carolina).

Chinese-Taipei is also the defending champion in both divisions with its Junior League squad winning the World Series last year following a 9-1 decision over US champion Southwest Texas.

"The Little League headquarters declared Chinese-Taipei and the CNMI as the winners of the tournament since they have the best record in pool play. They will again represent the Asia Pacific region in their respective World Series," said Ada.

Ada received the email from Little League headquarters at around 12pm (Saipan time) yesterday

The cancelation of the games no longer surprised tournament organizers and the participating teams as they already expected the outcome of the tournament after weather bulletin released Thursday revealed that a storm will enter the Marianas over the weekend.

CRANK

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ter the match.

He improved his record to 16-3 with 12 of his wins by KO, and two each by submission and decision, while suffering two defeats by KO and one by submission.

Yasuaki, on the other hand, absorbed his fourth straight setback to drop to 7-6. His previous loss before challenging Camacho was against New Zealand's Luke Jumeau (8-3, with 3 KOs) in the Pacific Ring Organized Fighting Championship last May 9 by technical KO.

Camacho said he watched Yasuaki's past fights since six of the Japanese bet's seven wins were by way of submission.

"I've prepared hard against him. I've done my research since we learned that he's a known submission fighter that's why as much as possible I kept a safe distance from him so he won't take me down that easily," said Camacho.

He added that Yasuaki's height also did not pose any problem as he had his game plan set inside his mind. Standing at six feet, Yasuaki was three inches taller than the 5-foot-9 Camacho.

"He is also taller than me that's why I tried to stay not too close since he is a good grappler and might use his height advantage against me. Our plan was for me to avoid being taken down," added Camacho.

Both fighters spent less than 15 seconds in trying to size up each other before Camacho faked in an attempt to take down Yasuaki and the Japanese took the bait, bringing his guard down.

"When his right hand came down, after faking him, I quickly took advantage and pounced on the opportunity. That has been what I've been training for the past four weeks and it paid off."

PNG

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the total of race scores excluding the two worst scores, according to the Games' website.

Over at the Lancron Naval Base, which is also located at Port Moresby, CNMI paddlers Joshua Andrew, Jason Tarkong, Joe Ayuyu, Carter Calma, Jack Kabiriel, Dino Manning, Ben Olopai, and Joe Quan will be competing in the 500m and 1,500 qualifying heats.

At the Taurama Aquatic Centre and Indoor Sports Complex, all three CNMI swimmers—Takumi Sugie, Victoria Chentsova, and Angel De Jesus—will join the Day 1 races.

Sugie will swim in the 50m backstroke and 200m freestyle, while both Chentsova and De Jesus will participate in the qualifying heats for the 100m freestyle event.

2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League Awardees

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Haus players hoist the championship trophy in the Masters division of the 2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League that concluded last month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

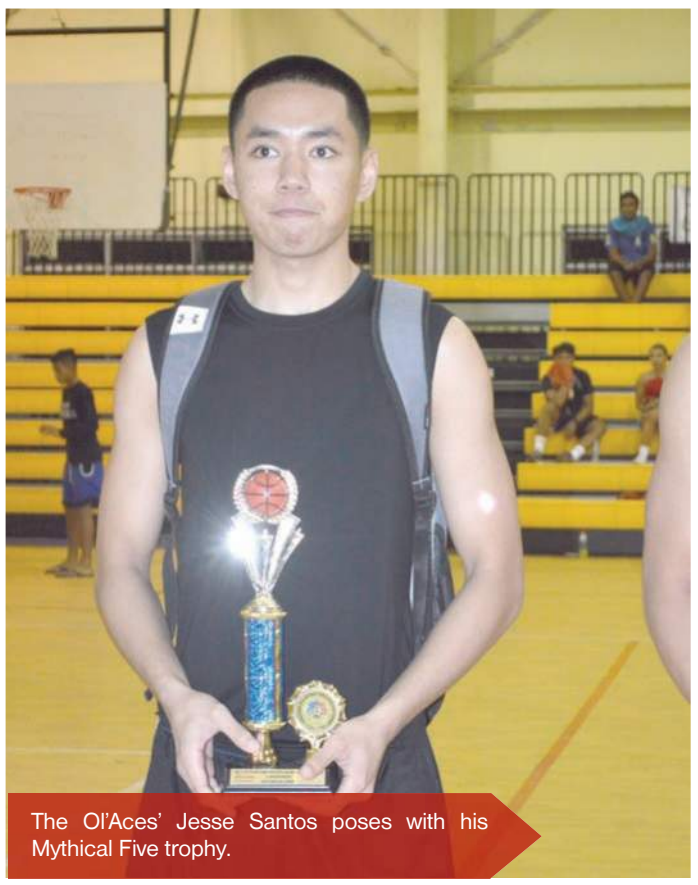
Motion Auto players and their sponsor Rene Batallones, eighth from left, pose with their Masters runner-up trophy and UFO officials.

Nicole Malasarte of Armatech receives the team's third place trophy in the Masters division.

Blue Haus' Edsel Mendoza shows his MVP and Mythical Five trophies.

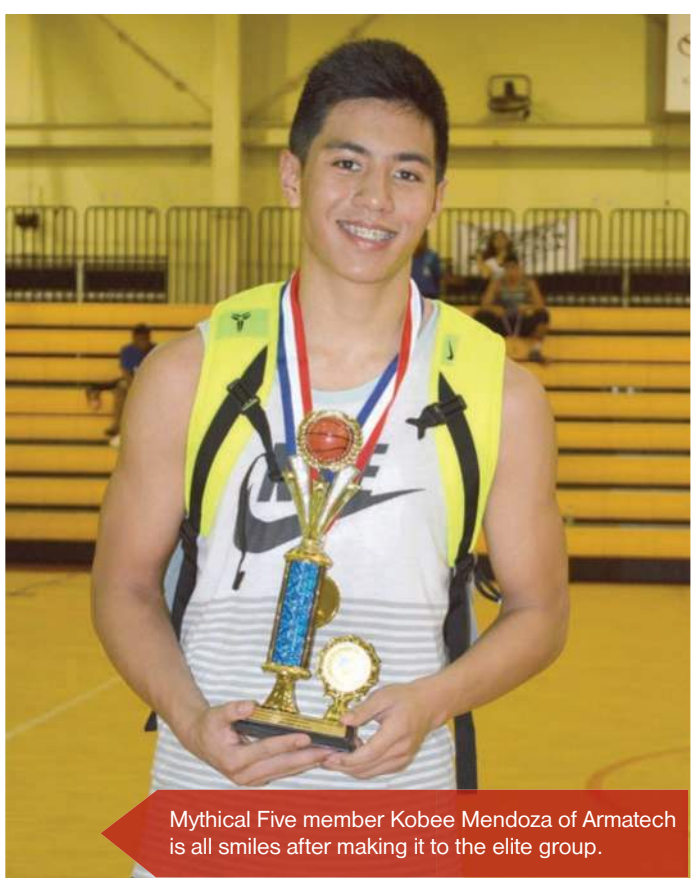
Blue Haus' Prince Factor receives his team's fourth place trophy in the U20 division.

U20 division runners-up the Ol'Aces gather for a group photo.



The Ol'Aces' Jesse Santos poses with his Mythical Five trophy.

Sonics assistant coach Omar Ajoste, left, with their U20 division third place trophy after receiving the award from Abner Venus, right.



Mythical Five member Kobee Mendoza of Armatech is all smiles after making it to the elite group.

LaMarcus Aldridge chooses San Antonio Spurs

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ASPAC regionals cut short by storm

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Tropical Storm Chan-Hom cut short the 2015 Asia Pacific Middle East Junior, Senior, and Big League Regional Baseball Tournament as games at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field were called off last Saturday afternoon

Hong Kong and the Philippines were playing in the battle for third and fourth place in the Seniors League divisions last Saturday when tournament director James Ada announced that the game would no longer be continued.

Ada said the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office, last Saturday afternoon, upgraded Chan-Hom to typhoon condition one.

"We apologize but we can't predict Mother Nature. We have no choice but to call off the games," added Ada.

As soon as Ada made the announcement, heavy rain poured, prompting everyone watching the match to run back under the bleachers or to their cars.

Hong Kong was holding on to a 12-4 lead heading into the top of the fifth inning when play was halted. Chinese-Taipei and the CNMI, in the Junior League, defeated the Philippines and Australia, respectively, in early morning matches with the weather still not that bad.

Chinese-Taipei and the CNMI were supposed to play at 9am in yesterday's title game with the World Series slot at stake, but organizers chose to

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JON PEREZ

The CNMI's Lorenzo Sebaklim, left, watches the pitcher, while getting ready to run toward second base in their second round game against Guam in the Senior League division of the 2015 Asia Pacific Middle East Junior, Senior, and Big League Regional Baseball Tournament last week at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

'Crank' makes short work of Japanese foe

JON PEREZ

Frank "The Crank" Camacho, top, overpowers Japan's Miura Yasuaki as referee Alverick Alvarez looks on in their scheduled three-round fight in the main event of last Friday's Rites of Passage 18: Warpath at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho scored an emotional win against Miura Yasuaki last Friday night, making short work of his Japanese foe in the main event of the Rites of Passage 18: Warpath at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Camacho needed only 34 seconds to dispatch the flamboyant Yasuaki to earn the knockout win in the non-title bout serving as the main fight of the triple main event that also featured nine undercard contests and a jiu-jitsu exhibition match between cousins "Shiska" Bob Alvarez and Roman "Boom" Alvarez.

Camacho was coming off a first round defeat to another Japanese, Yusuke Kasuya, in the Pacific Xtreme Combat 47 last March in Guam, losing by rear-naked choke submission.

TRENCH TECH

"This was a truly emotional fight and win for me. I always want to challenge myself of what more I could bring in a fight, especially after coming off a loss," said Camacho af-

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Triathletes complete race in PNG

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's three triathletes completed the short course race in the XV Pacific Games yesterday in Konedobu, Papua New Guinea.

Peter Prestley emerged as the top finisher among the three Commonwealth bets after capping the 750m swim, 20K bike, and 5K run in 1:23:22. Tony Stearns and Brad Ruszala clocked in at 1:33:14 and 1:37:30, respectively. Split times of each participant were unavailable at the Pacific Games' official website.

New Caledonia's Audric Lucina won the event with a 59:04 and he was the lone triathlete who completed the race under one hour. Tahiti's Benjamin Zorgnotti took the silver medal after submitting 1:02:11, while another New Caledonia bet Mathieu Szalamacha (1:03:41) settled for the bronze. Twenty-one joined the men's division race.

In the women's division, the gold medal also went to New Caledonia with Charlotte Robin topping 14 other participants. Robin registered 1:06:30 to beat Tahiti's Salome De Barthez De Marmorieres (1:06:49) and compatriot Celine Grymonprez (1:08:39).

Meanwhile, the CNMI will see action in three sports today—sailing, va'a, and swimming.

Stearns and her daughter Emma will compete in sailing's Hobie Cat Open Mix, which will run until July 11 at the Royal Papua Yacht Club in Port Moresby.

According to the Games' website, the sailing competition offers 18 medals from the men's and women's laser single and the mixed Hobie Cat single. Three individual gold medals and three team titles are at stake in the six-day competition, which will have 35 races.

There will be six races per day, two in each class. Each boat will get a series score after completing five races. The boat's series score will be the total of race scores excluding the worst score. When 11 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Peter Prestley poses with the "mud men" in Papua New Guinea before competing in the triathlon event in the XV Pacific Games yesterday in Konedobu.